Hafa Adai!

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'AG resignation will hamper release of MPLT loan.' PAGE 2
Ex-Fiji PM jailed for 1 year on corruption charges. PAGE 5

OPA files criminal charges vs Buckingham

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

The CNMI government, through the Office of the Public Auditor, filed yesterday criminal charges against former Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham over his alleged hosting of a campaign party for the governor's delegate candidate on Aug. 28, 2010.

Buckingham

Citing family reasons, Buckingham resigned as AG, the position that he held for three years. Although yesterday was his last work day, he remains the AG for the next 30 days because he's taking hi annual leave approved by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

OPA filed the information charging Buckingham with one count of use of public supplies, services, time and personnel for campaign activities; one count of use of the name of a government department or agency to campaign and/or express support for a candidate running for public office; two counts of misconduct in public office, and one count of failure to produce documents or information.

Superior Court's clerk of court Bernadita A. Sablan summoned Buckingham to appear in court on Monday at 9am.

"If you do not appear, an application may be made for the issuance of a warrant for your arrest," Sablan said in a one-page penal summons.

See OPA on Page 4

Initiative on fewer lawmakers, longer term defeated

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), right, gestures as he makes a point regarding his legislative initiative seeking to reduce the number of lawmakers from 29 to 17 during a session break yesterday afternoon. House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), seated-second from left, and Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), seated-right, voiced out the strongest opposition to Palacios' initiative which was defeated after it got only 11 "yes" votes, shy of two votes to pass. Six voted "no" to it. Also in photo are Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), seated-left, and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), in the background.

RELATED NEWS
➤ 'Unicameral' legislature pushed. PAGE 4

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Voters won't be deciding on whether they want a longer House term and fewer lawmakers during the Nov. 6 elections following yesterday afternoon's defeat of an amended legislative initiative that would have placed the question on the ballot.

The initiative got only 11 "yes" votes from 17 House members present during yesterday's session, shy of two votes to pass. Six voted "no" to the initiative.

Had the initiative mustered 13 or three-fourths "yes" votes from 17 House members present and voting, it

See INITIATIVE on Page 4

HOW THEY VOTED

■ Defeated House Legislative Initiative 17-4, HS1
■ Seeks to cut number of lawmakers from 29 to 17
■ 13 "yes" votes needed to pass

YES

1. Rep. Frank Dela Cruz *(R-Saipan)*
2. Rep. Ralph Demapan *(Cov-Saipan)*
3. Rep. Sylvester Iguel *(Cov-Saipan)*
4. Rep. Joe Palacios *(R-Saipan)*
5. Rep. Ray Palacios *(Cov-Saipan)*
6. Rep. Teresita Santos *(Ind-Rota)*
7. Rep. Ray Tebuteb *(R-Saipan)*
8. Rep. Stanley Torres *(Ind-Saipan)*
9. Rep. Edmund Villagomez *(Cov-Saipan)*
10. Rep. Ray Yumul *(R-Saipan)*
11. Speaker Eli Cabrera *(R-Saipan)*

NO

1. Floor leader George Camacho *(Ind-Saipan)*
2. Minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero *(R-Saipan)*
3. Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero *(Ind-Saipan)*
4. Rep. Janet Maratita *(Ind-Saipan)*
5. Rep. Tony Sablan *(R-Saipan)*
6. Rep. Trenton Conner *(R-Tinian)*

ABSENT

1. Vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro *(Cov-Saipan)*
2. Rep. Ray Basa *(Cov-Saipan)*
3. Rep. Froilan Tenorio *(Cov-Saipan)*

AFTER CANCELLATION OF $10M LOAN

House to PUC: Order CUC to return $800K to customers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives adopted yesterday a resolution requesting the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to order the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to give back some $800,000 it collected from customers since July 2011 supposedly to repay a planned $10 million loan that did not materialize.

Under the resolution, the $800,000 could be given back to CUC customers through reimbursement or offsetting.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), author of House Resolution 17-105, met at least twice with CUC officials to discuss what CUC intends to do with the additional charges it billed customers since

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
What is your primary source of local news?
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INSIDE

MAHARLIKA

Ismael Lavarias, 53, left the Philippines 23 years ago to work on Saipan for the promise of a better life for his family, but it took a great deal of discipline, patience, and skills for this father of three to reach some level of financial stability.

➤ PAGE 10

BUSINESS

Shoppers showed some spending muscle in July, once summer clearance sales and the hottest July in 50 years got them in the mood.

➤ PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE

The mystery of Michael Jackson's mother's disappearance was clarified Thursday with the release of court papers that said she was kept from communicating with outsiders while at a resort and was unaware she had been reported missing.

➤ PAGE 20

Local

‘AG resignation will hamper release of MPLT loan’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The release of additional funds for the Commonwealth Health Center is facing a new delay following the resignation of Attorney General Edward Buckingham this week, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres.

This after he revealed that Buckingham is the person tasked by the Fitial administration to take the lead on the $7-million additional line of credit from the Marianas Public Land Trust, which has yet been issued to the cash-strapped corporation until this time.

The $7 million credit line is part of the $11.58 million originally contemplated for the public hospital to help augment the critical shortfall in its operation: payroll, supplies, dilapidated equipment, and others. It was in March this year when $4.58 million was initially made available for the hospital to avert the shutting down of some sections and services at the facility.

Torres disclosed yesterday that since the enactment of the law that appropriated the $7 million to CHC, not a single cent has been made available to the corporation due to “conditions and requirements” that according to the administration and the AG, must first be satisfied.

Among these is the completion of the hospital assessment, which Torres said should not have been used as a basis for funds release. “They’re withholding the money [from MPLT] because they are waiting for the completion of this assessment. But it has nothing to do with this [loan],” he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

As soon as he heard about Buckingham’s resignation, the chairman disclosed that he immediately requested the corporation’s chief financial officer Alvaro Santos to communicate with the AG on the status of the MPLT loan. Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta is currently off-island for official business.

Torres said the corporation, which badly needs funding assistance to meet its payroll and immediate supplies, can no longer wait for more delays as a result of uncalled requirements.

“It has been appropriated and signed into law to help the hospital… and the MPLT is ready to release the funds! They should not use the assessment and other ‘requirements’ as bases if they and when they will provide the money to CHC,” he said.

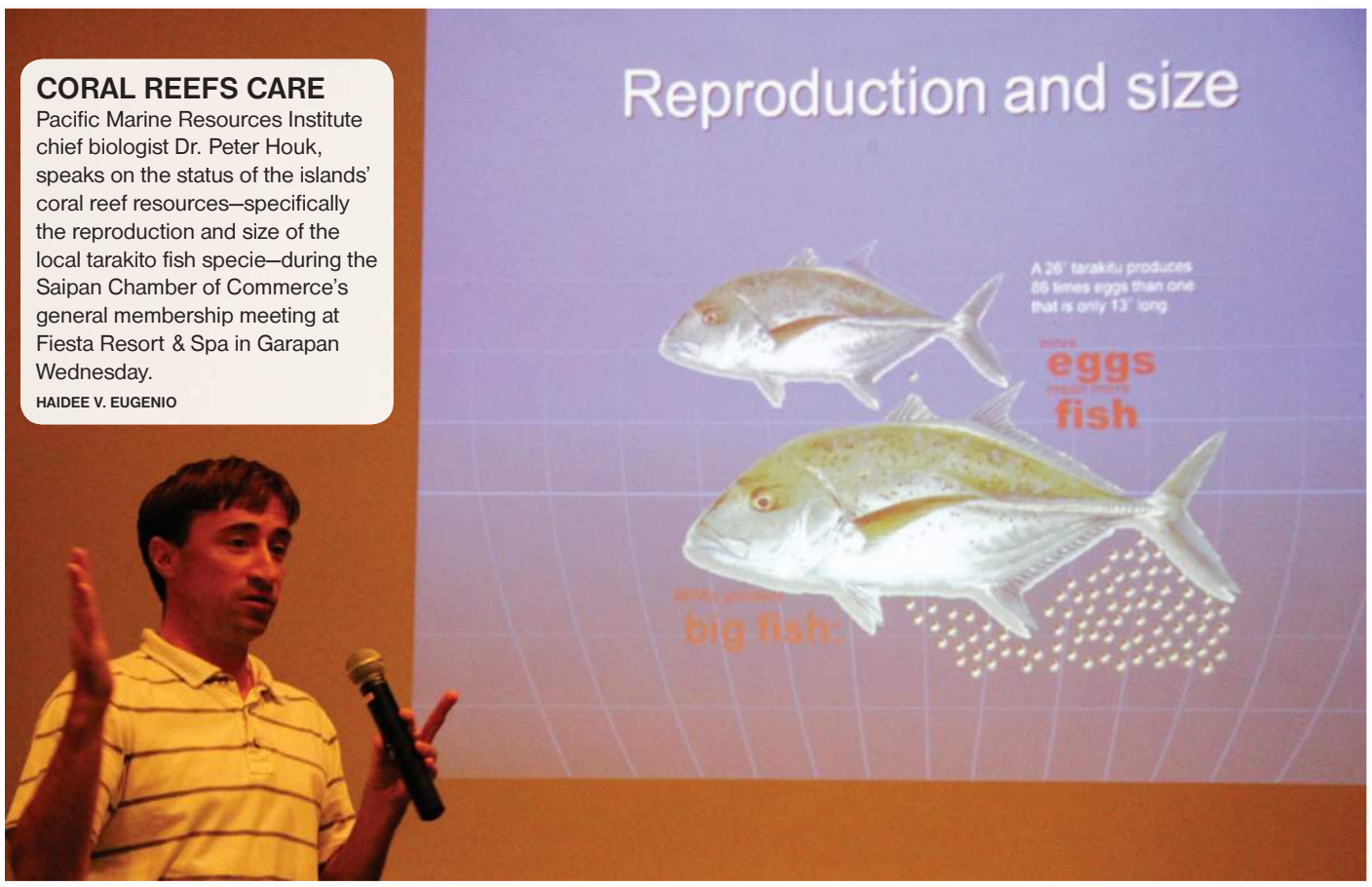
Like the first $4.58 million line of credit released to CHC, Torres said the corporation will ink a memorandum of agreement with MPLT for the release of the $7 million. This MOA, he said, will just be between the two agencies.

Lt. Gov. Inos on *Marianas Agupa*

Marianas Agupa will feature Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos in today’s program. He will talk about the move to have the NMI Retirement Fund’s active employees move into the U.S. Social Security pension program and his proposal for a hybrid bill similar to the H.B. 17-226 that was vetoed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The show starts at 9am and will end at 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show. Direct to studio at 234-5929 or use marianas agupa facebook account via instant messaging.

The Chamorro Radio Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: World report and program review by former mayor Joseph S. Inos and a report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola, a special segment called Hafa Mohon with Juanita Mendiola, and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator with former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous internet via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***



CORAL REEFS CARE
Pacific Marine Resources Institute chief biologist Dr. Peter Houk, speaks on the status of the islands’ coral reef resources—specifically the reproduction and size of the local tarakito fish specie—during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce’s general membership meeting at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan Wednesday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Ex-WPS principal Weindl pleads not guilty to indictment

Former Whispering Palms School principal Thomas Weindl yesterday pleaded not guilty to the indictment filed against him for allegedly using a netbook to view several child pornographic materials.

The indictment charged the 57-year-old Weindl with two counts of receipt of child pornography, and two counts of access with intent to view child pornography.

At yesterday’s arraignment, Weindl appeared with court-appointed counsel David Banes. Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy represented the U.S. government.

Weindl

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the jury trial for Oct. 1, 2012.

According to the indictment filed on Tuesday, on June 15 and 18, 2012, Weindl received or attempted to receive “still image and video files depicting minor children engaging in sexually explicit conduct.”

The defendant allegedly “knowingly accessed with intent to view the material that contains such image of child pornography.”

The prosecution alleged that as indicated in the e-blaster reports, Weindl searched for and accessed almost 200 websites containing images of child pornography.

E-blaster is a computer and Internet monitoring software program.

The prosecution said several of the searches conducted and websites accessed, specifically reference “eleven year old girl” and “twelve year old” engaging in sexual conduct.

The prosecution said Weindl also searched for images depicting the violent sexual abuse of children. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Demapan: Appointments for election board to be made soon

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration assured yesterday that the Commonwealth Election Commission board will continuously function because its vacant seats will soon be filled.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan told the commission that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is aware of the vacancies on its board which will play a pivotal role in this year’s mid-term elections.

Demapan

“Governor Fitial is in the process of selecting individuals to be nominated to the Commonwealth Election Commission. As it stands now, the CEC still has a quorum,” he said yesterday.

At present, the election commission board lacks two members for Saipan and one for Tinian. Another member from Tinian will soon be leaving the board as his term expires on Oct. 4. Without any representation from Tinian, the remaining commissioners cannot certify the election results, even if it gets a quorum.

The board has two vacancies for Saipan after the resignations of Elizabeth Aldan and Jose Itibus, while one is vacant for Tinian after Don Hofschneider’s term expired last year.

Demapan said the administration is also aware that there is a commissioner representing Tinian that is due to expire in October—Jose Kiyoshi.

“The governor will soon be making nominations that will ensure that all the municipalities are represented on the CEC at any given time prior to, during and following the election in November,” added the press secretary.

The election commission board is a nine-member body comprised of five representatives from Saipan and two commissioners each from Rota and Tinian, all of whom are serving a four-year terms.

Election commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero yesterday welcomed the news from the administration. But he stressed that an appointee can only seat at the board only after his/her confirmation which usually takes time. The governor has the authority to appoint members of the election commission board subject to Senate confirmation.

The 2012 mid-term elections is set for Nov. 6 this year. As of yesterday, no appointments have yet been made in any of these vacant positions.

The six members currently onboard the election commission include chair Frances Sablan, Antonio Agulto, and Jesus Sablan for Saipan; Leilanie Manglona and Josepha Barcinas for Rota; and Jose Kiyoshi for Tinian.

Tropical Depression Haikui intensifies but drifts away from Commonwealth

Tropical Depression Haikui (12W) yesterday continued to intensify but drifted westward away from the CNMI.

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, as of 1pm, the center of Tropical Depression Haikui was located 70 miles south-southwest of Iwo To Island, 535 miles northwest of Pagan, 705 miles north-northwest of Saipan, and 785 miles north-northwest of Guam.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial advised the public especially beachgoers, fishermen, tourists, swimmers, divers, and surfers to continue exercise caution along exposed reefs and beaches.

NWS said packing maximum sustained winds at 35 miles per hour, Tropical Depression Haikui is moving toward west-northwest at 9 miles per hour and is expected to maintain this general heading with an increase in forward speed during the next 24 hours.

The Emergency Management Office said most of the heavy showers and thunderstorms associated with Haikui have shifted southwestward away from the center into the Philippine Sea, farther away from the Marianas.

EMO said Haikui is still expected to move slowly west and maintain moderate monsoon conditions to islands in the far northern CNMI during the next several days. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

First NMC placement test scheduled for Aug. 7

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting its first placement test on the Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012. NMC's English and math placement tests are scheduled as follows:

English Placement Test Schedule

Aug. 7, 9, 14, 16	9am-6pm	Building M
Aug. 8, 10, 13, 15, 17	9am-4pm	Building M

Math Placement Test Schedule

Aug. 14	10am-12pm	Room A-9
	5pm-7pm	Room A-9
Aug. 15	10am-12pm	Room A-9
Aug. 16	10am-12pm	Room A-9
	5pm-7pm	Room A-9
Aug. 17	10am-12pm	Room A-9

New students are required to take the English and math placement tests before they register for courses for the Fall 2012 semester. After taking the placement tests, students can meet with their academic advisors, who will assist students complete registration forms and create class schedules.

There is a $25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 8:30am-4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Note that payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

Students who have a fee waiver must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test. Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the English placement test are strongly encouraged to contact the Language and Humanities Department (Building M) to schedule an appointment. There is also a sign-up sheet for the English placement test in Building M. "Walk-in" test takers will be accommodated based on seat availability. The average time to complete the English placement test is between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

For the math placement test calculators may be used. Note that test takers are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for those who have NOT taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

To schedule an appointment to take the English placement test or for more information, contact Jim Kline at 234-5498 Ext. 2017, Tom Colton at Ext. 2009, or Elsie Skang-Ngewakl at Ext. 2014. Also for more information or inquiries about the math placement test, contact the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at 234-5498 ext. 1202 or 1212.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Fall 2012 semester, visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N, Room 3 at the NMC As Terlaje campus, or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1540, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Participants in Thursday's professional development workshop for public health programs' employees and volunteers consult their individual group members during the exciting "Jeopardy" games at the session.

Public health staff, volunteers undergo professional development

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Staff and volunteers of the Division of Public Health programs took part in a professional development workshop, which was highlighted by fun activities that both created and developed more awareness about health disorders and preventions.

Held at the Commonwealth Health Center Thursday, there were more than 50 participants who attended the educational session hosted by the non-communicable disease (NCD) bureau. Facilitating the event was Joanne C. Ogo, program coordinator for the comprehensive cancer control program.

Saipan Tribune was told that the professional development workshop's goal was to better equip health workers and volunteers with tools and knowledge that will help in their role as effective providers.

It is also a time for staff to prepare, continuously update, and review and reflect on their own performances.

Ogo started the special workshop by recognizing the division's best employees of the month and the dedicated volunteers for the various health programs.

From the traditional lecture-type professional development sessions of the past, participants engaged this time in mind and physical activities that centered on health and prevention issues. A walk within the hospital site was also among the highlights of the three-hour event that ended 3pm Thursday.

To give healthcare providers inspirational messages, keynote speaker Frances S. Hofschneider encouraged participants to trust in their abilities and they will succeed. Hofscheider is the administrative specialist for the Public Health Division's NCD Bureau.

Hofschneider, who spent years of working at the private sector, said she "fell in love" with the public health work the very first time she tried it. She believes that with her dedication, she would greatly contribute to the public health programs. Hofschneider obtained her bachelor degree from the Argosy University.

She cited four key factors in her success: belief in herself, admitting mistakes and learning from them, having a positive outlook in life, and continuous motivation to study.

DEQ Cleanup Brigade at Sugar Dock, Aquarius Beach today

The Division of Environmental Quality Cleanup Brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Sugar Dock and Aquarius Beach today, Aug. 4, beginning 8am.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, please meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the Sugar Dock Pavilion.

Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade T-shirt.

Last month, the cleanup at Wing Beach was successful with 12 volunteers participating. Thanks to CUC and family members and other volunteers 80 lbs of trash was removed from the beach and properly disposed off. DEQ would also like to thank D&Q for the refreshment drinks.

The DEQ is looking forward to a repeat success this Saturday, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

USPS names Santos to head Hawaii, Pacific operations

HONOLULU—The U.S. Postal Service recently named Frank Santos as its new Honolulu District Manager. He replaces Daryl Ishizaki, who retired on Aug. 1 after 6 years in that position.

» Wolny takes over as manager of Honolulu Mail Processing Facility

As the Honolulu District Manager, Santos will be responsible for managing 2,500 employees and all of the Postal Service's mail processing, delivery, retail and customer service operations located in Hawaii, Guam, Saipan, Rota, and American Samoa.

Greg Wolny was also recently named as the Senior Plant Manager for the Honolulu District. In that capacity he is responsible for overseeing the mail processing and distribution operations, transportation, and maintenance operations associated with the District's 360,000 square-foot mail Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC), located near the Honolulu International Airport. He replaces Santos in that position.

Santos is a 38-year postal employee who began his career as a clerk in Kalaheo. Since his first management assignment in 1982 he has held positions of increasing responsibility, including Manager, Post Office Operations (MPOO), Manager, Customer Service Operations, and Honolulu Postmaster. He has also completed several successful detail assignments, including Sacramento Postmaster and Sacramento Senior Plant Manager. He had served as Honolulu Senior Plant Manager since January 2010.

"It's an honor to serve the employees of the Honolulu District," said Santos. "Our track record of high service rankings is a reflection of our highly motivated and dedicated employees."

Wolny began his postal career in 1976 in Bowie, Maryland and became a part-time carrier in 1978. His past managerial assignments included postmaster positions in Lompoc (CA) and Wahiawa, and Honolulu District MPOO. He had served as the Honolulu District's Manager, Operations Programs Support since 2010. ***(USPS)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Janvir M. Castaneda who is turning three years old today, Aug. 4. Greetings coming from Mommy, Daddy, Kuya Jemo, and Kuya Jerome, and the Montano family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

National Car Rental
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Renter must be 21 yrs. & above with Drivers License. Security deposit of $200.00 for Cash payments.
Offer expires on August 31, 2012. Some restrictions apply.
Tel. No. 288-4400 /233-0111/235-6627/285-4405/888-6055

‘Unicameral’ legislature pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Minutes after yesterday’s defeat of Rep. Joe Palacios’ (R-Saipan) legislative initiative seeking to reduce the number of lawmakers from 29 to 17, Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) introduced an initiative pushing for an 18-member unicameral legislature.

Deleon Guerrero said as far as he knows, this is the first time in CNMI history that an initiative has been introduced seeking a unicameral legislature similar to Guam.

His initiative seeks to amend Article II of the NMI Constitution to amend Section 2, repeal Section 3, and amend Section 4 to add a new subsection (c).

It establishes a unicameral legislature by eliminating the House of Representatives and establishing a Senate comprised of 18 senators elected at-large.

Currently, the 29-member Legislature has two houses—a Senate with nine members and a House with 20 members.

During discussions on Palacios’s House Legislative Initiative 17-4, HS1, Deleon Guerrero said he would be offering a substitute initiative. Later on, Deleon Guerrero said he’s withdrawing the substitution.

When HLI 17-4, HS1 was defeated for lacking two more “yes” votes, Deleon Guerrero introduced his initiative.

Palacios said he supports Deleon Guerrero’s initiative but he said the chance of this new measure placed on the ballot is slim.

“Maybe this would be for a special election. But I have suggestions to Deleon Guerrero. I believe the initiative should have four senators from Rota, four senators from Tinian, and seven from Saipan. That way, if you combine the Rota and Tinian senators, they would still have the majority. That would be acceptable to the Senate,” Palacios said.

This early, however, some House members are already questioning whether Deleon Guerrero’s initiative complies with the Covenant between the NMI and the United States, the NMI Constitution, the U.S. Constitution and other laws.

The Covenant

The initiative says Section 105 of the Covenant provides that amendments to Articles I, II and III and Sections 501 and 805 may be modified only with the consent of the U.S. government and the CNMI government.

“For the record, we intend by this Act to permit and authorize all other corresponding amendments to the relevant laws of the Commonwealth to be consistent with the spirit and letter of this legislation subject only to federal amendments to the Covenant that are necessary to effectuate the intent of this Act,” it says.

Deleon Guerrero’s initiative also says passage of the Act by virtue of the affirmative vote of the majority of the CNMI people will be sufficient justification for the U.S. Congress to amend Section 203 (c) of the Covenant to reflect the people’s decision to convert to a unicameral legislature.

‘Politically overrepresented’

Based on the initiative’s findings, the CNMI is “politically overrepresented.” This is based on a population of some 53,000 with two houses in the Legislature, three senatorial districts and 29 legislators.

It says there are too many levels of bureaucracy within the government and particularly within the legislative branch, “levels which are themselves, entirely too big.” The findings are based on “purely objective numbers.”

The initiative says with some 2,500 residents, Rota is represented by three senators and one House representative.

Tinian’s approximately 3,100 residents are similarly represented by four legislators.

Saipan, with some 48,000 residents, is represented by 21 members of the Legislature—three senators and 18 representatives.

Considered in a different light, Saipan has a ratio 1 elected official for every 2,286 constituents.

This is a ratio nearly triple that of Tinian’s 1 to 775 and nearly quadruple of Rota’s 1 to 625.

Commonwealth-wide, 53,000 people represented by 29 legislators results in a ratio of 1 legislator for every 1,827 people.

By comparison, Guam has a ratio of 1 to 10,000, or 160,000 people represented by 15 senators elected island-wide.

In terms of just the voting public, the CNMI has some 15,500 voters compared to Guam’s approximately 47,000.

If the ratio of “legislator to constituent” were updated to reflect the 2010 Census, Saipan’s population of 48,000 would be divided by Rota’s 2,500 to arrive at the proverbial “one man one vote” number.

This simple calculation would result in 19.2, effectively increasing Saipan’s representation from 18 to 20 under the doctrine of equal apportionment.

But the constitution caps the number of House members at 20. Thus, the House would be even larger if Rota and Tinian’s populations were factored in and there was a recalculation based on the principle of one person one vote.

The initiative says it is now time that the Legislature decrease its membership to become more efficient and less costly, by establishing a unicameral legislature.

HOUSE

From Page 1

July last year now that the $10 million loan with Rhode Island-based Independence Bank is no longer being pursued.

Dela Cruz is chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation’s Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee.

CUC planned to enter into a $10 million loan deal with Independence Bank of East Greenwich to meet federal requirements under the U.S. District Court and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stipulated orders and enable CUC to buy maintenance parts and equipment for power plant 1.

The money was also eyed to fund 27 other authorized projects, mostly for the repair of engines, power generation equipment, power transmission and distribution.

Public Law 17-62 authorized the $10 million loan, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as guarantor.

But the loan did not materialize. The administration said it was USDA that pulled the plug on the loan, but Independence Bank said it was the CNMI Office of the Attorney General that did so.

Regardless, CUC has already billed $929,000 toward the debt service but actual collection is estimated at $800,000.

HR 17-105 says CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren advised the Legislature that PUC authorized last year the collection of additional charges from customers. He said CUC would continue collecting until PUC determines they should stop doing so.

Acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher also told lawmakers CUC is no longer focused only on debt servicing but also addressing CUC’s needs to ensure customers get power, water and wastewater service.

House members, in adopting HR 17-105, request PUC to prohibit CUC from continuing to charge ratepayers any sums that were designated for debt service because the intended loan has been cancelled.

“CUC should reimburse or otherwise credit ratepayers and customers any and all sums CUC collected in an amount not less than $929,000 that were billed or collected to repay the planned $10 million loan that did not materialize,” the adopted resolution says.

OPA

From Page 1

As press time, Buckingham had yet to reply to *Saipan Tribune’s* request for comment.

A source said an OPA staff as of yesterday afternoon was looking for Buckingham at Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel to serve him with the summons.

According to OPA legal counsel George L. Hasselback in the information, on or between July 26, 2010 and Aug. 28, 2010 on Saipan, Buckingham, being a public official of the CNMI, knowingly caused public funds, time, personnel and/or equipment to be used for political and/or campaign activity.

Specifically, Hasselback said, Buckingham as AG did by himself and/or through members of his staff (all of whom were employees of the CNMI) plan, organize, and disseminate information and invitations regarding a gathering that the defendant hosted.

Hasselback said the purpose of the gathering was to provide a platform for which a then candidate for public office could address those present regarding his candidacy.

“These actions were undertaken in whole, or in part, by public employees during their working hours, using publicly owned equipment of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Attorney General,” the OPA legal counsel said.

Hasselback said that on or between July 26, 2010 and Aug. 28, 2010, the defendant used the name of a government department or agency to campaign for or express support for a candidate running for public office.

He said specifically, Buckingham used his position as AG and the name of the OAG to plan, organize, host, and secure the attendance of persons at a gathering.

The gathering, the lawyer said, was to provide a platform for which a then candidate for public office could address those present regarding his candidacy.

Hassselback said Buckingham’s actions were in violation of the criminal penalty provisions of the Government Ethics Code Act and the NMI Election Law and, therefore, illegal.

Hasselback alleged that on Nov. 17, 2011, Buckingham, being a non-elected official of the CNMI, knowingly refused to provide documents and/or information requested by the Public Auditor pursuant to an investigation.

He said specifically, Buckingham refused to provide any documents and/or information to the Public Auditor when requested to do so, pursuant to an investigation of potential violations of the Government Ethics Code Act.

Hasselback said that, on Oct. 20, 2010, Buckingham, being a public official, willfully neglected to perform the duties of his office.

Specifically, the OPA counsel said, Buckingham as the AG had a legal duty to review all proposed contracts with the CNMI and certify that the CNMI had the legal capacity to enter into the same.

He said the defendant also had a concurrent legal duty to refuse to certify that the Commonwealth had legal capacity to enter into a specific contract that violated both CNMI law and regulation.

Alternatively, Hasselback said, defendant, as the AG, had a legal duty to act to prevent the continued performance of a contract that violated CNMI laws and/or regulation upon becoming aware that such a contract violated CNMI laws and/or regulations.

“Despite this duty, defendant failed to act to halt the performance of a contract entered into by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that violated both CNMI laws and/or regulations,” the OPA counsel alleged.

In November 2011, the OAG charged Public Auditor Michael Pai’s wife, Joanna C. Pai, and Joanna’s mother, Columbia I. Chong, over the alleged stealing of power utility services over $51,000.

Attorney Rexford Kosack, counsel for Joanna Pai and Chong, stated that the only reason Joanna Pai has been charged is that she is married to Public Auditor Michael Pai who has attracted the ire of then AG Buckingham.

In May 2012, Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos dismissed the case.

The night before the filing of the criminal case against Joanna Chong, a December 2010 OPA report, which Gov. Fitial has not released, was leaked to the media by an anonymous source.

The report concluded that Buckingham’s actions “violated criminal prohibitions” of both the Commonwealth Ethics Code Act and the Commonwealth Election Act when he hosted a campaign party for a then delegate candidate at Fitial’s house in Gualo Rai on Aug. 28, 2010.

In June 2011, Buckingham and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson sued Public Auditor Pai over his hiring of two lawyers, which according to the plaintiffs such actions “threaten an imminent waste of public funds.”

INITIATIVE

From Page 1

would still go to the Senate for a vote barely a few days before the Aug. 8 deadline to file legislative initiatives to be placed on the ballot.

House Legislative Initiative 17-4, House Substitute 1 seeks to amend Article II Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the NMI Constitution to reduce the number of House members from 20 to 11; reduce the number of senators from nine to six; an island-wide election for House members; and increase House members’ term from two years to four.

The vote came in after a lengthy discussion over HLI 17-4’s constitutionality and the CNMI’s socio-economic realities, particularly its decreased population.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), author of the initiative, expressed dismay over the defeat of the 18-month-old measure despite support from community members during public hearings.

“Voters have been denied a chance to decide on the issue. They should have allowed the initiative to be placed on the ballot,” Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

The strong oppositions to the initiative came from minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), who repeatedly said that HLI 17-4 violates the NMI Constitution, CNMI laws, the U.S. Constitution, and a recent case law.

Deleon Guerrero and Sablan added that the initiative goes against the “one-man, one-vote rule” and the “Equal Protection Clause,” part of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that provides that “no state shall ... deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

Sablan pressed House legal counsel John Cool on whether HLI 17-4 violates the NMI and U.S. Constitution. He said he wanted a “definitive” answer. Cool said only the courts can issue a definitive answer to his question.

Palacios, the initiative’s author, said he’s not a lawyer but he thinks the court will uphold people’s decision to change their own constitution.

“The constitution is created by people, and they can amend the constitution,” he said.

Palacios said if it’s any consolation, he’s glad that at least the initiative was voted on although he had hoped it would pass.

“Like I said before, do or die, at least I tried. Let the people know who voted yes or no to it,” he added.

The 11 House members who voted “yes” to the initiative were, in order of voting, Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), and Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

The six “no” votes came from floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian).

The three absent were vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan).

Ex-Fiji PM jailed for 1 year on corruption charges

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—Fiji's last democratically elected leader was sentenced Friday to one year in prison after being convicted on corruption charges that his supporters say were politically motivated.

Laisenia Qarase was found guilty Tuesday of abusing his office and failing to perform his duties. Court documents say the 71-year-old former prime minister failed to disclose a private investment interest in three companies that he was helping manage in an official capacity some 20 years ago.

Qarase served six years as prime minister before being ousted by Fiji's current leader, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, in a 2006 coup. At the time of the offenses, Qarase was financial adviser for the Fijian Affairs Board and the now-disbanded Great Council of Chiefs, as well as a company director.

More than 300 Qarase supporters showed up at his sentencing Friday at the High Court in the capital, Suva, where security was tight. Many of his supporters maintain the charges were politically motivated - a way for Bainimarama's regime to consolidate power and prevent his foes from running for office.

Bainimarama has made clear his disdain for Qarase and the former prime minister's political policy of favoring native Fijians ahead of other ethnic groups.

Bainimarama has promised to hold free elections in 2014, and Fiji is drafting a new constitution ahead of the polls. The new constitution is expected to include provisions to prevent convicted criminals from running for office, meaning the convictions will likely end Qarase's political career.

Qarase

The sentencing came just days after New Zealand and Australia decided to restore full diplomatic ties with Fiji, following a Sydney meeting among the foreign ministers of the three nations. Bainimarama's promise to hold free elections and his moves to create a new constitution for the island nation had helped ease tensions.

It's unlikely the latest developments will affect those diplomatic moves as the Qarase case had been before the court for months. The foreign ministers from both Australia and New Zealand were traveling Friday and were not immediately available for comment.

Another former prime minister, Mahendra Chaudhry, also faces three charges of breaching the Exchange Control Act after being accused of failing to surrender 1.5 million Australian dollars ($1.6 million). The Fijian High Court last week dropped money laundering charges against Chaudhry, saying the alleged offenses happened too long ago.

At Qarase's sentencing Friday, Judge Priyantha Fernando said the case should serve as a lesson to others in positions of power.

"Your actions are not only illegal, but against moral values," the judge said. "The punishment that you ought to receive must reflect the breach of public confidence."

The court, however, said it reduced Qarase's sentence by 18 months due to mitigating factors, including Qarase being a first-time offender who suffers from worsening diabetes.

One of Qarase's grandchildren who was at the sentencing sobbed uncontrollably when the judge announced the prison sentence.

Bordallo welcomes 2012 summer interns

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo welcomed 10 interns to her Washington, D.C. office this summer. The interns include: Sara Fitzpatrick, Thomas French, Shaneika Lai, Rachael Blaz, Parker Bettis, Mariana Dimla, Hannah Lam, and Dominique Rose Felix. Vincent Reyes is the 2012 University of Guam congressional intern and James Pangelinan is the first congressional intern from the Guam Community College. Congresswoman Bordallo has provided internship opportunities to nearly 80 undergraduate students during her time in office. Many previous interns continue to be actively engaged in public service both in Guam and throughout the country.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congresswoman Bordallo joins her 2012 summer interns at the wreath laying ceremony to commemorate the 68th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and the Battle for the Northern Mariana Islands at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. From left to right: Vincent Reyes, James Pangelinan, Rachael Blaz, Dominique Felix, Mariana Dimla, Sara Fitzpatrick, Shaneika Lai, Hannah Lam, Parker Bettis, and Thomas French.

Sara, daughter of Kelly and Maria Fitzpatrick, is a 2010 graduate from Academy of Our Lady of Guam. Sara is an incoming junior at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and is majoring in Political Science with a minor in Psychology. Sara is a recipient of the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship, National Merit Scholarship, and the Swarthmore Writing Fellowship.

Thomas, son of Vice Admiral William French, Commander, Navy Installations Command, and Monika French, is a 2010 graduate from The Rock Academy in San Diego, California. Thomas is currently attending and playing football for Maranatha Bible Baptist College and is studying Business Management.

Shaneika, daughter of Richard and Irma Lai, is a 2010 graduate from Harvest Christian Academy. Shaneika will be transferring from Seattle Pacific University to Chapman University in Orange County, California in the fall as a major in Film and Media Arts. Shaneika used her talents to create a video of the 2012 Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns honoring the 68th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and the Battle for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Rachael, daughter of Tom and Shelane Blaz of Fairfax, Virginia (and granddaughter of former Guam Congressman, Brig. Gen. Ben Blaz, USMC, Ret.), is the 2012 Valedictorian of Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax. Rachael will be studying Nursing at Auburn University in Alabama on a full ROTC Scholarship in the fall.

Parker, son of Leland and Melissa Bettis, is a 2010 graduate from North Canyon High School in Arizona. Parker is currently an incoming junior at Arizona State University and is studying Finance with a minor in Pre-Law.

Vincent, son of John and Maria Reyes, is a 2009 graduate from Father Duenas Memorial School. Vincent is a rising senior and will be attending Towson University in Maryland through the University of Guam's study abroad program in the fall. Vincent was recommended to the Congresswoman by UOG President, Dr. Robert Underwood for this internship based on a faculty committee review.

James Pangelinan, son of James Pangelinan and Carmen Borja, is a 2010 Simon Sanchez High School Graduate. James is currently attending Guam Community College and studying Early Childhood Education. James was recommended to the Congresswoman by GCC President, Dr. Mary Okada, for this internship based on a faculty committee review.

Mariana, daughter of Patrick and Debbie Dimla, is a 2010 graduate from the Academy of Our Lady of Peace in San Diego. Mariana is an incoming junior at the University of San Diego, California and is majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Leadership. Mariana is also the 2011 Sons and Daughters of Guam Club Liberation Queen in San Diego.

Hannah Lam, daughter of Steve and Anna Lam, was the 2011 valedictorian of St. John's School. Hannah is currently attending Harvard University and majoring in Linguistics.

Dominique Rose Felix, daughter of Chris and Rose Felix, is a 2009 graduate from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam. Dominique is a rising senior at Santa Clara University in California and is majoring in Economics and Communications.

"These internships are an opportunity for a diverse group of college students to work for a Congressional office and learn more about the issues important to Guam," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "Our summer interns contribute significantly to research and administrative tasks in my office and participate in events in Washington to commemorate the Liberation of Guam. I hope this educational experience helps to broaden their understanding of government and motivates them to improve their communities. Further, I am pleased to have had the opportunity to host the GCC and UOG interns. My staff and I thoroughly enjoyed having all of our summer interns and we wish them the best in completing their degrees and contributing to our island and our nation." ***(PR)***

UOG awards Dr. John T. Keck Memorial Scholarship

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left: Dr. Donald L. Platt, UOG History professor and close friend of the Keck family; James A. "JAK" Keck; Jahnice Joyce T. Miranda, award recipient; Dr. Helen J. D. Whippy, UOG acting president; and Dr. Anita Enriquez, dean, UOG School of Business and Public Administration.

The University of Guam recently awarded the Dr. John T. Keck Memorial Scholarship to Jhanice Joyce T. Miranda, a junior business major at the UOG School of Business.

The one-time scholarship awards $5,000 to an academically high-achieving student who demonstrates the qualities of a focused business person. The late Dr. Keck's son, James A. "JAK" Keck, an upcoming sophomore under a scholarship at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, presented the award.

The late Dr. Keck was a Professor of Finance at UOG from 1988 to 2004, where he was honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award. The scholarship was established in memory of his dedication to academic excellence and his positive contributions to the UOG community. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Badminton ... ethics?

The Olympics audience came to see the best in the world play badminton. Yes, it is an Olympic sport. Instead they saw athletes serving into the net and duffing shots out of bounds, just like, well, backyard amateurs.

A sudden case of Olympics nerves?

Nope. Just cynical strategy.

Several two-women teams apparently were trying to lose preliminary matches so they could jockey for a better spot—against a weaker opponent—in the later rounds. That way, they'd gain a better shot at a gold medal.

But spectators jeered and officials tossed four pairs of women—two from South Korea and one each from China and Indonesia—for deliberately trying to throw their games.

Which raises a question for anyone who has ever been an athlete or even rooted for a team.

Have you ever sandbagged?

All those NFL fans who chanted, "Suck for Luck," willing their teams to lose as many games as possible so they could pick up the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft, Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck. Do you take umbrage now at the big badminton scandal?

Amateur golfers can collect on a lot of bets if they have a handicap that's higher than their actual ability. How to do that? Blow a few shots late in the round, after the match has been decided. "Sandbagger" gets muttered on the golf course more than any other playing field.

In billiards, it's a sign of craftiness.

IOC Vice President Craig Reedie, the former head of the international badminton federation, welcomed the tossing of the badminton teams. "Sport is competitive," Reedie told the AP. "If you lose the competitive element, then the whole thing becomes a nonsense. You cannot allow a player to abuse the tournament like that, and not take firm action. So good on them."

OK, good on them.

Now tell us why badminton is an Olympic sport.

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What's the magic number?

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at Tropical Ed.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

Let's start off August with a campfire riddle.

Here it is: With the economy so tight we have to send our orders to Santa Claus early. In fact, now that August has arrived, he's already started budgeting for his fuel expenses. Santa needs to know how far it is from the North Pole to Saipan. We have to tell him.

But there's a catch: Santa used to be a Boy Scout. He wants us to go old school. So we have to estimate the distance without using any tools or references; no maps, pens, paper, or calculators.

How do we do this?

Well, if you caught my July 13 column, you may remember this tip for star-gazing: "Make a fist like you're holding and aiming a pistol, extending your arm out, just like a target shooter. Your fist, at arm's length, is now covering 10 degrees of vertical arc."

Let's use this trick to solve our Santa puzzle.

The only real work we have to do is to look due north at night. When we do that, we will see a fairly bright star called Polaris, otherwise known as the North Star. We find it by either knowing our way around the sky, or by observing the sky for long enough to recognize that as the hours go by, all other stars appear to revolve a fixed point in the sky. This point is where Polaris stands. No matter when we look, no matter what time it is, no matter what date it is, no matter what we had for dinner, Polaris is the only thing in the heavens that never moves.

Actually, it does move a little, but not enough to notice for naked-eye estimations.

This isn't a trick we can do in the southern hemisphere, by the way. There is a North Star. But there is not a South Star.

Anyway, now that we've found Polaris, we'll measure its height over the horizon. We extend a fist, which, remember, covers 10 degrees of arc. We will see that Polaris stands one-and-a-half fists over the horizon from Saipan. In other words, it's 15 degrees high.

This leads to a trick used by outdoorsy types, military folks, and other rugged adventurers: The height of Polaris is the same as the observer's latitude. Since it's 15 degrees high, we are at 15 degrees north latitude. Which is to say, we're 15 degrees north of the equator. Same thing, different wording.

Now it's time for the magic number: One degree of arc over the Earth's surface is equal to 60 nautical miles. I think this is the first thing that navigators learn, before they're given a compass or even told where the bathroom is. I've taken the blah-blah-blah out of the magic number, you're just getting the gist for our context.

Now that we know the magic number, we're on a roll. All we need is some mental math.

Since we're 15 degrees north of the equator, we can convert this into nautical miles. We take 15, multiply it by the magic number of 60, and we come up 900. So Saipan is 900 miles north of the equator; I'm just going to say "miles," not "nautical miles" from now on, with the "nautical" bit being implicit.

Next, I'll consider that the equator is, of course, 90 degrees from the North Pole. So, again applying the magic number, I'll see that the equator is 5,400 miles from the pole. Well, Saipan is 900 miles closer to the Pole than the equator is, so that's 5,400 miles minus 900 miles, which gives us 4,500 miles. That's our answer.

Alternatively, we can just realize that Saipan is 75 degrees away from the North Pole (90 degrees less our latitude of 15 degrees), so we can get our answer in one step by multiplying 75 times 60. I have a hard time doing that in my head, though, which is why I chop things into more manageable chunks. Anyway, 75 times 60 is 4,500. See? Same answer.

So Saipan is 4,500 nautical miles from the North Pole. Indeed, using nothing but eyeball, fist, and brain, you can, from any point in the northern hemisphere, determine your latitude, your distance from the equator, your distance from the North Pole, and the direction of true north (that's why Polaris is called the "north" star). That's a lot of stuff.

For reasons I don't understand, land-lubbers use "statute" miles, not nautical miles. A nautical mile is a little bit longer than a statute mile, with 1 nautical mile equaling 1.15 statute miles. I'll skip metric flavors here, I lack the space.

Santa is an old hand at navigating, so if you tell him "mile," he'll be thinking nautical, not statute. Now that he's put us in the budget, I've already got high hopes for Christmas.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Barry your knee on my wounded heart

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Dear Barry,

It's your 51st birthday. I turned 67 three days ago. That makes me your senior by 16 years. So, allow me to call you by your name when you were in Hawaii. I drive around with a Hawaii-issued license, so I guess, we relate commonly though differently to the Aloha State of the Rainbow coalition. I also lived in a predominantly African-American project on Chicago's Westside, and in the urban polyglot of Uptown in the '70s and '80s, and since you launched your political activism in the same city in almost similar vocational expenditure, you will pardon my tone of familiarity.

Still, you are my President, and my salutation carries with it the respect appropriate to the office that you hold in the country where I am a citizen. I am currently tramping around the environs of northern Inner Mongolia, in the area where the Mongolian tribe of Genghis Khan originated. The same genetic source crossed the Berring Straits long time before, the ancestors of those who were first to people what we now call the Americas.

Those curious about where I got the allusion to my title on this reflection can google "Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee," a popular "historical" account of the Native American experience under the administration of Uncle Sam. You will recall that the account was written not from the perspective of "go west, young man," but from a forlorn look eastward on how the nation's fathers set policies in D.C. to systematically decimate these proud people who trace their origins to the Mongolian steppes. The veil of tears march for the Seminoles from the southeast to Oklahoma remains a classic case of genocide.

Inner Mongolia now flies the flag of the People's Republic of China of the one star and four smaller ones. One account of what this symbol represents is the unity of a diverse people, the predominant Han along with the Tibetans, Mongols, Manchus, and the other ethnic minorities.

I am not particularly clear how my red-white-and-blue allegiance suddenly adopted a foreign policy of containment of the country whose park restrooms that I recently used in my travels are graced by images of Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse, quintessential cartoon characters of American lightness of being and red-blooded playfulness.

Additionally, some Pinoys (by my definition, Filipinos who are world-wise and street-smart) launched a boycott of things made in China. Led by Beatrice LTC CEO's Loida Nicolas Lewis, whose reputation we became familiar with when we lived inside the beltway of DC, who also heads the Cayman-registered company doing business in China, and supported by human rights and immigration lawyer Ted Languatan of Daly City, California, their effort seems to have gained a hearing in the CNMI.

Ms. Lewis and Languatan's reasoning echo your administration's articulation to contain China as it allegedly threatens U.S. national interest in the Far East. I assume Clinton at State, and Panetta at Defense, reflect the current thinking of the White House. If you see your job to make America be great again, Rah! Rah! Rah!, we may define that as to making all of us be real and genuine democrats again! Authenticity is the real mark of authority.

I lived in Saskatchewan in the late '70s. It was while working with Canada's Metis (mixed blood between the natives and European frontiersmen and fur traders) that I first heard the plaintive song of Buffy Saint Marrie titled like the above book. She sang:

I learned the safety rule
I don't know who to thank
Don't stand between the reservation
And the corporate bank
They're sending federal tanks
It isn't nice but it's reality

Bury my heart at wounded knee
Deep in the earth
I said cover me with pretty lies
Bury my heart at wounded knee

I do not think you lied to us (not even on your birth certificate!) but your watch has not done much on your campaign promises that captured our votes and elected you into office. I am an ardent supporter, and I support you again, if only for the simple reason that your opponent is a sorry alternative. But I do not wish to support you by default. Right now Barry, you've got your knee on my wounded heart!

I know it is an election year, and precisely because corporate America continues to widen the equity gap between the haves and the have nots, set to put funds in the service of denying you a second term, it must give you real pause. To play into the hands of those who drum up opposition on flash point issues like immigration, gun control, homophobia, and the like, is to give in to deception. More importantly, the frolicking Panda that may actually grow to robust for its own good, is not the foe!

The issue remains is the "We" in "Yes, we can." Keep making real the spirit of Jefferson and Lincoln, and other predecesors in our political experiment, that "we the people" is a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Let us, those who support you, not get off the hook too easily. Participatory democracy remains the real call of the hour. The onus of responsibility lies in our hands, encouraged and supported by the executive powers of your office.

So President Barack Hussein Obama, on your natal day, you the man! Get your priorities back into order. We will march along with you. It is America for the planet and all that is in it that will heal many wounded hearts!

Debts: A bridge too far

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

Deficit spending atop piles of debts of about half-a-billion dollars is the issue to brave given the mounting obligations while leadership contends with the concurrent loss of revenue streams. The combination could very well turn out to be a bridge too far to traverse. It could easily snap and plunge right into the deep blue anytime soon, if not, already.

All the cheers of a new finding of additional resources is a mirage that doesn't add up to such issues as the NMI's inability to pay its share of funds for Medicaid, severe cuts in medical referral, the likelihood that PSS would overspend by $7 million; lack of nearly $40 million for CHC's operations; hard to come by cash for CUC operations; and the inability of local government to pay its share of employer's contribution with a total debt of more than $332 million. I need not beg the issue. You do the math and you'd see that it's all a matter of time before we leap off fiscal cliff.

Debts and deficit spending plus accruing more debts via a planned flotation of pension obligation bond would only fast track our march into the nether land of debt crisis. Bond flotation has its own ugly requirement—loaning institutions would impose higher interest rates—when your grade is below par. This is exactly where we are today so broke you quiz with hopeful prayers how would the NMI be graded amidst a fiscally disastrous posture.

But may I respectfully withdraw from any further discussion so that our men of wisdom dispose of these issues forthwith in sober fashion. Did we hear somewhere the familiar lyrics, "Whisper words of wisdom?" Wasn't this about a failed promise?

It's a bridge too far to traverse, safely.

■ ■ ■

Bankruptcy vs. taxpayers

When you hear debts like $332 million for the Fund coupled with plans to pile up more debts upon the local government, take a retreat and think once more what does it all mean to you as a taxpayer. You quiz what happened to the "experienced" team as the NMI heads to Fiscal Cliff.

It' time to buckle down into the quiet corner of your mind to seriously assess how do you navigate your canoe amidst a huge super storm of bankruptcy most politicians would prefer snowballing rather than "telling it like it is".

1. You are hooked on to the unfunded liabilities the government owes the Fund on employer's contribution of about $332 million.

2. You are hooked to millions of dollars more if the planned pension obligation bond is approved to pay off current debt. It literally boils down to a replacement of debts.

3. By the time this issue is settled temporarily, you are firmly hooked to the same pile of debt though in new debt service for fresh pension obligation bond loan.

4. You are also hooked to other obligations in the millions of dollars or the lack of money for CHC, PSS, DPS, medicaid, medical referral, and scholarship, among others. It's an acquisition of more debts while revenues plummet as more businesses close their doors.

5. You are hooked to current family obligations to which your payment ability may be suspect or compromised.

The promise of restoration of 80 hours is struggling in the wobbly shifting sands of bankruptcy. It's now 72 hours rather than the promised 80 hours. Is this indicative of the suspect projection of revenues that may fall way below what's anticipated? Who knows, reduction in force may be the next step given the significant reduction in annual revenues.

Indeed, the huge contraction of revenue sources leaves a lot of difficult and significant questions upon politicians to wrestle with. Specifically, how does the NMI pay off mounting debts without compromising the future of our children in the midst of simultaneous losses in revenue streams? Isn't it high time that we employ some sense of humble humility so we deal with the deepening mess in straightforward fashion? No worries. I am not running for office thus the freedom to take the villainous role in the interest of honesty in the conduct of state affairs.

Would approving pension obligation bond ensure the life of the Fund on a long-term basis or will it be a temporary solution? Yes, it may temporarily address issues with current retirees, but what about pension for the rest of their lives and pension for future retirees? The beast would still be around to tinker with like a two-headed corn snake, right? The NMI chops one head ignoring the other?

Where dystopia (meaning, where nothing works) has set in, the air of uncertainty is just about the only certainty that has settled uncomfortably in our minds. With fiscal trauma never before seen in our developmental history, would there be sunny days ahead so we replace the gloomy dark clouds hovering over these isles?

■ ■ ■

Questions taxpayers must ask

Whichever sector you're in—private or public—the pessimistic lean days ahead necessitates working for the best while preparing for the worse. Agonizing this may be, each taxpayer must diligently review the traumatic fiscal posture of the NMI. It helps to know what's at stake in a setting where nothing works.

You must begin questioning the fate of your job in a woefully bad economic meltdown. It includes questions about income stability: will it remain the same, adversely affected by more work hour reduction below 64 hours biweekly or completely wiped out by the likely imposition of a reduction in force?

How would you deal with health issues, i.e., a family member being afflicted with catastrophic illness? Would your health insurance ably cover off-island health costs? How do you deal with the costly expense of a long-term illness that requires hospitalization in off-island medical facilities?

Would you ably help your children that are still working on their undergraduate degrees? Will it necessitate their amassing federal loans for their purposes or would taking up part time jobs (break from class) be the other option in these lean times?

Too, would your income remain stable to cover real estate loan for the first family home? What happens when both you and your spouse are no longer gainfully employed? How would you pay for the first family home and basic family obligations? Indeed, these are difficult issues to deal with in a listless economy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

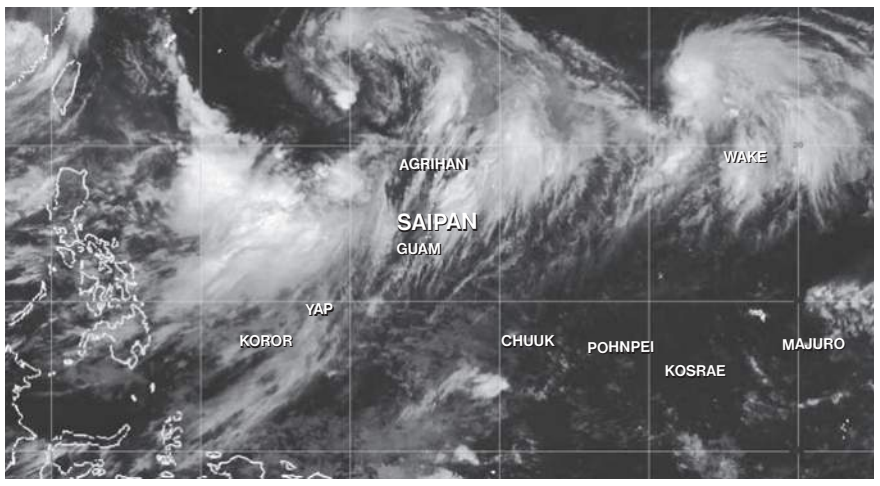
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼51
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼74
London	Thundershowers	▲69	▼57
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲62	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼74
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼78
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Pusan	Windy	▲87	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲93	▼69
Salem	Sunny	▲90	▼60
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼75
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲96	▼76

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression Haikui (12W) is centered southwest of Iwo To Island at 24N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the center of Haikui north of a line from 22N138E to 22N143E. For more detailed information on Tropical Depression Haikui (12W) see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW and the National Weather Service under WTPQ33 PGUM. A monsoon trough stretches eastward through 21N130E to Tropical Depression Haikui (12W) at 24N140E to another circulation centered northwest of Wake Island at 24N160E to end near 24N166E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found well north of Koror and Yap within an area bounded by a line from 22N130E to 19N141E to 12N141E to 11N130E back to 22N130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over the Mariana Islands north of a line from 13N143E to 13N147E to 20N156E and near Wake Island on the eastern end of the monsoon trough north of a line from 18N159E to 18N171E. Converging southwest winds are generating scattered showers southeast of Yap between the equator and 7N from 140E to 150E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers over the eastern Marshall Islands between the equator and 10N from 172E to the date line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:11 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
9:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:10 PM	7:37 AM
Sunday	8:50 PM	8:29 AM
Monday	9:30 PM	9:19 AM
Tuesday	10:09 PM	10:09 AM
Wednesday	10:50 PM	10:58 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 8, 2001

Delay in project angers Rota exec
Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona said yesterday that he may exercise his emergency powers to fast-track the construction of a road which had been delayed due to the alleged "inaction" of a local and federal agency. Manglona lambasted officials of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and their local counterparts for their alleged failure to issue a permit to a construction application that is needed to start the "back road" project, stretching from the Rota airport to Songsong Village. "About a year ago, a construction application was submitted to the Fish and Wildlife agency for approval. To date, despite our vigorous efforts to move this project and comply with wildlife concerns, Fish and Wildlife officials have withheld the application's approval," Manglona said.

Fitial: Repeal anti-business laws
House Speaker Benigno Fitial sees an urgent need to charge certain business laws to provide the government a strong foundation for success in its goal of opening the local market to foreign investors. In particular, Fitial wants to see a total repeal of the present moratorium on the hiring of nonresident workers and the $100,000-dollar security deposit requirement, which, he said, have become major stumbling blocks for investors who have long wanted to put their money into the local economy. The Speaker said he will soon introduce a bill that will seek to repeal remaining anti-business laws in a special House Session this week.

Aug. 8, 2002

SCC: Cut govt payroll by 10 percent
To overcome its financial problems, the CNMI government should enact a law that would cut the government payroll by 10 percent, with a sunset provision that would make it effective for just a year. Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Richard A. Pierce said that, with a payroll of $175 million a year, the 10-percent cut on the payroll account would save the government $17.5 million in one year. This, he said, is a feasible alternative that would effectively help the government battle its present financial problems. "I support the Administration's attempt to cover their payroll through fund maneuvers, on one condition only. The government needs to sunset a law where 10 percent (rated as per value) of its payroll is reduced for a year. They did it to the retailers in 1986. They must do it now," said the Chamber president.

NMI urged to develop more rehab programs
Over 40 participants from across the CNMI converged yesterday for the kick-off session of the three-day Rehabilitation Capacity Building Project workshop facilitated by visiting experts from the Southern University of Baton, Louisiana. The workshop, organized by the Northern Marianas College, Southern University, SDSU Interwork Institute and Rocky Mountain Technical Assistance and Consulting Center, is designed to provide basic information required in grant applications available to minority entities such as the CNMI. RCPB national coordinator Daniel Hopkins said the workshop's goal is to improve the quality services to people with disabilities from culturally diverse populations, particularly by increasing the involvement of these people in the rehabilitation field.

Aug. 8, 2003

'DEQ has no grounds to decertify CUC'
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has appealed and challenged the Division of Environmental Quality's intent to revoke the utility firm's water laboratory permit, saying the CUC remains in compliance with applicable regulations. CUC board member Laura I. Manglona, who heads the board's compliance committee, reported yesterday that the CUC's off-island environmental consultant, TestLaw Practice Group, found that contrary to DEQ allegations, "the CUC laboratory has not engaged in fraudulent or deceitful conduct, and DEQ has no grounds to decertify the permit." Manglona's committee, which was formed to take over the responsibility to investigate the issue from the CUC management, hired the consultancy firm recently to look into DEQ's serious allegations, including tampering with water test results.

Maharlika

Why OFWs on Saipan, other countries have hard time saving

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

In this file photo, Filipino workers on Saipan line up to secure a so-called umbrella permit. Despite high potential for earning and saving, many overseas Filipino workers fall in the money trap for a host of reasons.

Ismael Lavarias, 53, left the Philippines 23 years ago to work on Saipan for the promise of a better life for his family, but it took a great deal of discipline, patience, and skills for this father of three to reach some level of financial stability.

He said he and his wife are at a point where, if they lose their job on Saipan today, they would be able to go back to the Philippines with enough savings to last them for months until they get another job or until they put up their own business.

"I don't have a vice, and I think people having unchecked vices miss a great deal of opportunity to save at least a small portion of their earnings. For example, I've seen a lot of our fellow OFWs [overseas Filipino workers] spend nights going to night clubs or bars and spend on alcohol and other stuff they don't really need, and end up without much savings or no savings at all," Lavarias told *Saipan Tribune* in a weekend interview.

With his job as a heavy mechanic operator earning a bit more than the minimum wage, he was able to buy two parcels of land and build a house in Pampanga, send his children to school, and help other relatives in the Philippines.

His children are now grown up and are now able to help him and his wife. He said he is able to set aside $200 to $300 a month toward his savings.

So how did he do it besides not having to spend on vices such as alcohol and drinks?

"I always try to live within my means. I try to have discipline. If I only have $10, then I will spend less than $10 and at least save a portion of that for emergency or future use," Lavarias said.

He said he does not buy unnecessary things. He also plants vegetables and fruits in the backyard to supplement their food supply.

"I have okra, papaya, ampalaya, banana, egg plant, sweet potato planted in my backyard. My wife and I seldom buy vegetables because we grow them ourselves," he said.

He added that during spare time, one can put to good use his talents and skills and get paid extra for it.

"It takes hard work and patience. If you're not doing anything on a weekend, go plant vegetables in your garden, it's a good start," he said.

Many OFWs who have stayed on Saipan or other foreign countries for years, some of them longer than Lavarias did, have yet to achieve financial stability—that state wherein they have enough funds for both their aspirations such as being able to send their children to school or own their own house and lot, as well as prepare for the unknowns such as accidents and illnesses.

But in many instances, it's not only because OFWs are not prudent or disciplined that they are unable to save.

Here are main reasons why OFWs on Saipan and in any other foreign country have a hard time saving:

Debt:

It's still true that many OFWs sell or pawn their family's property to pay manpower agencies' placement fees to go abroad. Others resort to borrowing money at high interest rates. They are already in debt even before they leave the Philippines.

Depending on the amount of placement fees required, OFWs spend one, two or more years settling these obligations. Paying off debts, as well as remittances, takes too much of an OFW's earnings that there's just not much or none at all to save for rainy days.

Even OFWs who go on vacation in the Philippines incur new debts, after spending way beyond the dollars they were able to bring home. They think they have the means to repay these debts anyway because they are going back abroad. And the cycle of debt continues.

Uncontrolled expenses back home:

Family members of OFWs have a major role to play in ensuring that an OFW won't come home broke after years of toiling on foreign soil.

Many family members back home no longer delay gratification and buy all the stuff they want—the latest generation of cell phones, a new motorcycle, or expensive clothes—just because their father, mother, brothers, or sisters are abroad.

A sad reality is that many family members do not observe proper budgeting and do not save a portion of what their OFW relative remits to them on a regular basis, so an OFW who unexpectedly lost his job could go home to a family that not only lacks financial discipline but has also become too financially dependent on their OFW relative.

Financial experts say OFWs should know whether their family back home has proven to have managed household expenses well, and go from there. Experts say OFWs should have their own savings account, and not remit everything to their family back home especially if the family has not proven to be good at managing expenses.

High cost of living abroad:

What OFWs need on a daily basis in the country where he or she is working may cost much more. Experts say this could also be a big hindrance to what OFWs can save if they are not careful.

On Saipan, for example, the high cost of electricity, gas, housing rental, food, and almost all consumer products are a concern among OFWs.

Even for OFWs whose families are on Saipan and therefore do not remit regularly to the Philippines except when there are emergencies involving their other relatives, the expenses on island are just "too high" that saving becomes difficult.

Geoffrey Melchor, a 52-year-old project engineer, said his biggest expenses on Saipan are the house rental, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. bills, and his children's school fees.

Melchor, who has been on Saipan since 1987, said while he thinks he earns "well enough," there's "not much savings" to talk about "because I am also spending dollars here for all of them."

The father of three said to stretch their dollars, they avoid frequent eating at restaurants and buying non-essential items. He said this type of discipline is needed since he doesn't have other sources of income.

Low earnings:

While the adage, "it's not how much you make but how much you save" is true, most of the time, there's just not much to earn in the first place that will make it hard if not impossible to save.

On Saipan, for example, employers have instituted work hour cuts to avoid a shutdown and this means reductions in the salaries of OFWs and other employees. Filipino workers here have reported 64 work hours or less biweekly since their employers' businesses have slowed down. Regular or normal work hours are 80 every two weeks.

OFWs, in prioritizing their expenses given the reduced salaries, tend to place "saving" at the bottom of the list.

Beyond OFWs' control:

There are also instances when OFWs' financial troubles are caused by circumstances beyond their control. For example, their employers do not pay them or they were victimized by illegal recruiters.

Others also lose their job unexpectedly when the business shuts down either for economic reason or the owner decides to retire or move elsewhere. There are also cases wherein OFWs are replaced with local workers in the foreign country where they work.

OFW's own financial discipline:

Experts say since OFWs live away from their families, many of them tend to compensate for lost time by buying things for their family they don't really need. This overspending makes things worse, especially with an already large percentage of remittance, expenses abroad and repayment of debts.

But Carlito J. Marquez, 56, said while he's remitting some 60 percent of his paycheck back home every month, he makes it a point to invest a portion of his earnings to a 401(k) or retirement plan.

Marquez also rarely eats at restaurants and bring cooked food to work for lunch. On occasions, he tries to supplement his income with other projects during his spare time to be able to provide more for his family.

At the end of the day, it's the OFW's own financial discipline that will play the most important role. They will be the ones who can really ensure that their sacrifices—working abroad away from their family—do not go to waste.

Working abroad and earning more than what they would have earned back home brings a feeling of empowerment to many OFWs. They feel they now have the power to buy things that they and their family have wanted for so long—appliances, computers, or a car. Financial experts say while there is nothing wrong with this, OFWs should keep their expenses under control and track where their earnings go.

Experts recommend that people with regular jobs—and that includes OFWs—should set aside 20 percent of their pay for savings. This money can go to emergency payments especially if one has a family. If 20 percent proves to be too difficult, one can start with 10 percent, every payday.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Amando Tetangco Jr., at the signing of a memorandum of understanding between BSP and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas in March this year, said beneficiaries of money transfers from aboard should save and "invest" part of their money for a more productive use of remittances.

"While remittances boost economic activity through higher private consumption, the potential of remittances for other productive uses such as savings and investments has yet to be maximized," Tetangco said.

Citing World Bank records, Tetangco said the Philippines is the fourth largest beneficiary of remittances.

When in doubt, experts say, OFWs should ask themselves whether their family is more financially secure today than they were in the past. If one can answer this positively, then the sacrifice will all be worth it.

OFWs should also have enough savings to invest and start a new life when they go home, financial experts say. Uncontrolled spending back home by the family and the OFW himself while abroad might not have been worth the stint overseas if the OFW ends up with nothing—or even worse—debt in the end.

Arroyo back in hospital after choking on melon—spokesperson

MANILA, Philippines—Former President, now Pampanga Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, was brought to Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) Thursday night, her spokeswoman said over Radyo Inquirer 990AM.

"She was advised by her doctor to have a complete bed rest," Elena Bautista-Horn said.

On Thursday, Horn said Mrs. Arroyo's family had dinner where she choked on melon.

"She suffered a strain in her neck in an effort to let out the melon that choked her," she said.

Horn added that Arroyo experienced fatigue after she went back to work at the House of Representatives following her release from VMMC.

Initial investigation showed that Arroyo suffered "acute cervical and lumbar pain."

Arroyo was under hospital arrest for seven months until the Pasay City Regional Trial Court approved her request for bail.

After her release, Arroyo went to Tagaytay to visit an alternative medicine doctor, went to her father's grave and then to Pampanga to see her constituents.

7 Korean tugboat crew rescued in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The coast guard has rescued seven South Korean crewmen from a tugboat being battered by rough seas off the northwestern Philippines.

The skipper of the Kosco 202, Jeon Hong-Jong, says he radioed for help before dawn Thursday after a barge his boat was towing sunk and the boat's engine room started filling with water near Zambales province.

He says his boat was being tossed in the water for several hours by 5- to 6-meter (16- to 20-foot) waves whipped up by Typhoon Saola before a coast guard vessel spotted them. They transferred by rubber boat to the ship, which brought them to Subic Bay Freeport about 20 kilometers (18 miles) away.

He says they were heading to Indonesia from Shanghai, China, to deliver the barge.

'Gener' toll rises to 26; new LPA seen

By DJ YAP, PHILIP TUBEZA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Storm signals have gone down, except in Batanes province, but don't leave home without an umbrella or raincoat just yet.

The weather bureau on Thursday downgraded storm signals across the country, leaving only the Batanes Group of Islands in the extreme north under Storm Signal No. 1, as Typhoon "Gener" made its exit and headed toward Taiwan.

The typhoon left at least 26 people dead and forced 180,000 to flee their homes in Metro Manila and 27 central and northern provinces.

The Coast Guard and other disaster-response groups reported having rescued 125 people from stricken sea vessels and flooded villages, according to Benito Ramos, the head of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

The death toll from Gener rose to 26 Thursday after two persons died from being hit by falling trees in Bohol, and a girl drowned in Ilocos Sur, the NDRRMC said.

Ramos identified the latest victims as Fernando Rellon Jr. and Jury Betaganzo. "They were hit by falling ipil-ipil trees," he said.

Venice Sinopen, a Grade 3 pupil who drowned in San Ramon, Ilocos Sur province, was among the 12 new deaths reported to the NDRRMC Thursday, Ramos said.

"There were no classes and she might have gone swimming," Ramos said.

There were three other drowning victims—Angelito Bicoy of Quezon, and Efren Salvacion and Patrick de la Rosa of Bulacan—and five other deaths from falling trees—Mary Jane Lima of Negros Occidental, Madeline Caminade of Iloilo City, Emilia and Andrei Pasugiron of Negros Oriental, and Augusto Campo of Misamis Oriental.

Gener left at least P2.13 million in damaged infrastructure and agricultural crops. "This figure could go up further," Ramos said.

The NDRRMC said Gener also affected 331,588 people, 12,000 of them seeking shelter in 61 evacuation centers.

Malabon drownings

The 26 NDRRMC death toll apparently does not include a police report of three drowning deaths in Malabon City Thursday.

Three children—Eliza May Dolfino, 12, Angelina Nicole Gregorio, 12, and Patricia Gregorio, 11—drowned while reportedly playing in a flooded vacant lot inside the Artex compound at about 1 p.m. Thursday.

Malabon police chief Senior Superintendent Ferdinand Ampil said the three were playing while looking for scrap materials in a recently demolished house.

"They decided to jump into a nearby creek. Heavy rain had just fallen and it was still high tide, so the water could have been deep. They did not immediately surface," he added.

The children, who were found by village watchmen, were rushed to Alfonso Clinic in Malabon but were pronounced dead on arrival at around 1:45 p.m.

Ampil said that residents in the area did not know the three victims who were apparently from Malinta, Valenzuela City.

More rains, strong winds

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Luzon and Western Visayas will continue to experience rains and strong winds, especially in the western sections because of the southwest monsoon.

The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies, with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms, Pagasa said.

Strong to gale-force winds are also expected to affect the seaboards of Luzon and the Visayas, and the seas will be rough to very rough.

The sea will be rough in Luzon's western and southern seaboards as well as the western seaboard of the Visayas, where the waves may reach between 3.4 and 5.5 meters.

Fishing boats and other small seacraft were advised not to venture out sea while larger sea vessels were alerted against big waves.

Back into a storm, new LPA

Meanwhile, the weakened Gener has been reclassified back into a tropical storm.

At 4 p.m. Thursday, Gener was estimated at 430 kilometers north of Basco, Batanes, packing maximum sustained winds of 110 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 140 kph. It is forecast to move north northwest at 9 kph.

By Friday, the eye of the storm is expected to be 590 km north northwest of Basco, Batanes, and out of Philippine territory, Pagasa said.

Gener (international name: Saola) made landfall in Taiwan on Thursday and had already been blamed by local media for seven deaths in the territory.

Four Philippine Airlines flights to and from Taipei were canceled at Ninoy Aquino International Airport because of adverse weather conditions in Taiwan.

The heavy rains and strong winds in Taipei also resulted in delays of at least five international flights to and from Taipei, according to the Manila International Airport Authority.

AP

Three men huddle around their outrigger while waiting for passengers as flood waters continue to rise due to rain and high tide Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012 in Navotas City, north of Manila, Philippines. Exiting Typhoon Saola left nearly two dozens of people dead and forced 180,000 to flee their homes in the country.

Meanwhile, a new low pressure area (LPA) has been observed in the Pacific Ocean east of the Philippines, though still relatively far away.

"Based on Pagasa's numerical models, within the next few days, the LPA may just hit the sides of the Philippine area of responsibility. It is not expected to directly hit the country," said forecaster Raymond Ordinario.

If the LPA intensifies into a storm, it will be named "Helen," he said.

State of calamity

The Valenzuela City government has declared a state of calamity in 18 villages which remain submerged in floodwaters after two weeks of heavy rain.

The declaration of a state of calamity will allow city officials to access calamity funds to help the affected villages: Arkong Bato, Balangkas, Bisig, Coloong, Dalandanan, Isla, Mabolo, Malanday, Malinta, Palasan, Pariancillo Villa, Pasolo, Poblacion, Polo, Rincon, Tagalag, Veinte Reales and Wawang Pulo. Classes remain suspended in 12 schools in the affected villages.

As of Thursday, public information officer Ahna Mejia said around 269 families from 11 barangays remain in 16 evacuation centers in the city, as floodwaters remain knee- to waist-deep in several areas .

Meanwhile, the Navotas City government, which declared a state of calamity on Wednesday, suspended classes in all public in private schools and in all levels Thursday, as the inclement weather threatened to bring more flash floods.

Floods in some villages remained knee-deep after water from a 1.9-m high tide in the morning breached river walls, and damaged pumping stations failed to pump the water out.

A total of 512 families remained in evacuation centers Thursday, and some 160 houses were partly destroyed by the floods, the city government said.

Third fatality in Cordilleras

Two residents of Itogon, Benguet, died on Tuesday after they were buried by landslides, adding a third fatality in the wake of Gener.

Rescue workers recovered the body of a 34-year-old farmer, Efren Forawit, who disappeared on July 31 after he crossed the Chico River in Sadanga, Mt. Province, to visit his farm. His body was recovered in Barangay Mapacu in Pinukpuk, Kalinga, on Wednesday.

The local Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said two 15-year-old boys from Buguias, Benguet, identified as Jerry Turo and John Regueros, had been reported missing.

The OCD said authorities evacuated 127 families, composed of 598 people, from La Trinidad, Benguet, and Baguio City.

Several Cordillera roads remained closed to traffic Thursday while work crews rushed repairs and clearing operations.

The Philex Mining Corp. and other mining firms operating in the Cordilleras Thursday said their tailings dams remain safe and stable, contrary to reports that they said had panicked lowland communities.

A text message traced to a sender in Ampucao village in Itogon, Benguet, claimed that an explosion had damaged Philex's tailings dam on Thursday.

The reports turned out to be false as Philex engineers had inspected the firm's facilities and reported that their tailings pond remains intact, said Felizardo Gacad, Cordillera mines division chief of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Salvador Olinares, chief of the Baguio weather station, said Baguio City received 464 millimeters of rain in a 24-hour period from Wednesday to Thursday, about double the 246-mm rainfall volume recorded from Tuesday to Wednesday. The Monday-to-Tuesday rainfall volume was recorded at 242 mm.

But the volume of rain that fell over Baguio City has not exceeded the rains accompanying Typhoon "Pepeng" in 2009, which was recorded at 600 mm for a 24-hour period, Olinares said.

"Thursday's rains were not even dumped by Typhoon 'Gener' anymore. We have been experiencing enhanced monsoon rains. It is the rainy season after all," he said.

The city disaster risk reduction and management council recorded minor landslides and toppled trees around the city since Monday, which caused power outages, but power has been restored by Benguet Electric Cooperative in most parts of the city.

Floods in Pangasinan

At least 20 villages in two Pangasinan towns and in Dagupan City remain submerged in floodwaters, prompting school officials to suspend classes in the grade school levels in those areas.

Reports from the provincial disaster risk reduction and management council said four villages in Sta. Barbara town and four villages in Calasiao town were flooded because of the swollen Sinocalan and Marusay rivers that traverse the towns.

Twelve villages were also under water in Dagupan City because of the high tide.

At 4 a.m. Thursday, the Agno River Basin Flood Forecasting and Warning Center in Rosales town recorded an average rainfall of 116.5 mm in the past 60 hours, causing the province's three river systems to swell.

As of noon Thursday, the water elevation at San Roque Dam in San Manuel town was 274.51 meters above sea level (masl), which is only 5.49 m from its spilling level of 280 masl.

The Ambuklao and Binga dams in Benguet have been discharging water due to heavy rains in the province. Ambuklao has four gates open at 6 m while Binga has six gates open at 10 m.

Water released by both dams flows into the San Roque reservoir.

Gener caused at least P7 million worth of damage to rice fields and infrastructure in Western Visayas.

The OCD in Western Visayas reported that as of yesterday, 3,394 families, or 14,708 persons, were affected by flooding in the provinces of Iloilo, Antique, Aklan and Negros Occidental.

Three persons died and nine others were injured in the region. Nineteen-year-old Alfred Gumban of Balabag village in Pavia town in Iloilo remains missing and is believed to have drowned on July 31.

Negros Occidental provincial agriculturist Igmedio Tabianan said the damage to the province's palay crop had reached P5,568,595.

Fishermen rescued

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported having rescued four fishermen whose motorboat capsized on Wednesday off El Nido, Palawan, because of strong winds and rough seas.

Lieutenant Commander Armand Balilo, the PCG spokesperson, identified the fishermen as Michael Abay-Abay, 36; Crisante Tabat, 42; Abner Binavidez, 20; and Meliton dela Cerna, 42, all residents of Lipay village, Sta. Cruz, Zambales.

Meanwhile, three fishing fishing boats sank off Aguauan village in Mariveles, Bataan, on Tuesday after the craft was battered by big waves.

The PCG in Mariveles reported that a crew member of one of the fishing boats, Archangel Vicoy of San Jose, Antique, was reported missing by his companions.

Also in Mariveles, the Korean-registered cargo vessel Ocean Galaxy with 18 crew members on board ran aground early this week off Canas Point in the southern Bataan town.

The vessel was dragged by huge waves and subsequently ran aground 800 yards off Canas Point, the PCG said, adding that the crew members were safe and there had been no signs of oil leakage.

Samu't Sari

FAMILY FUN DAY

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Saipan Lion Club members pose for a photo during Ayuda Network's 20th Anniversary Family Fun Day held last July 28 at the Civic Center in Susupe.

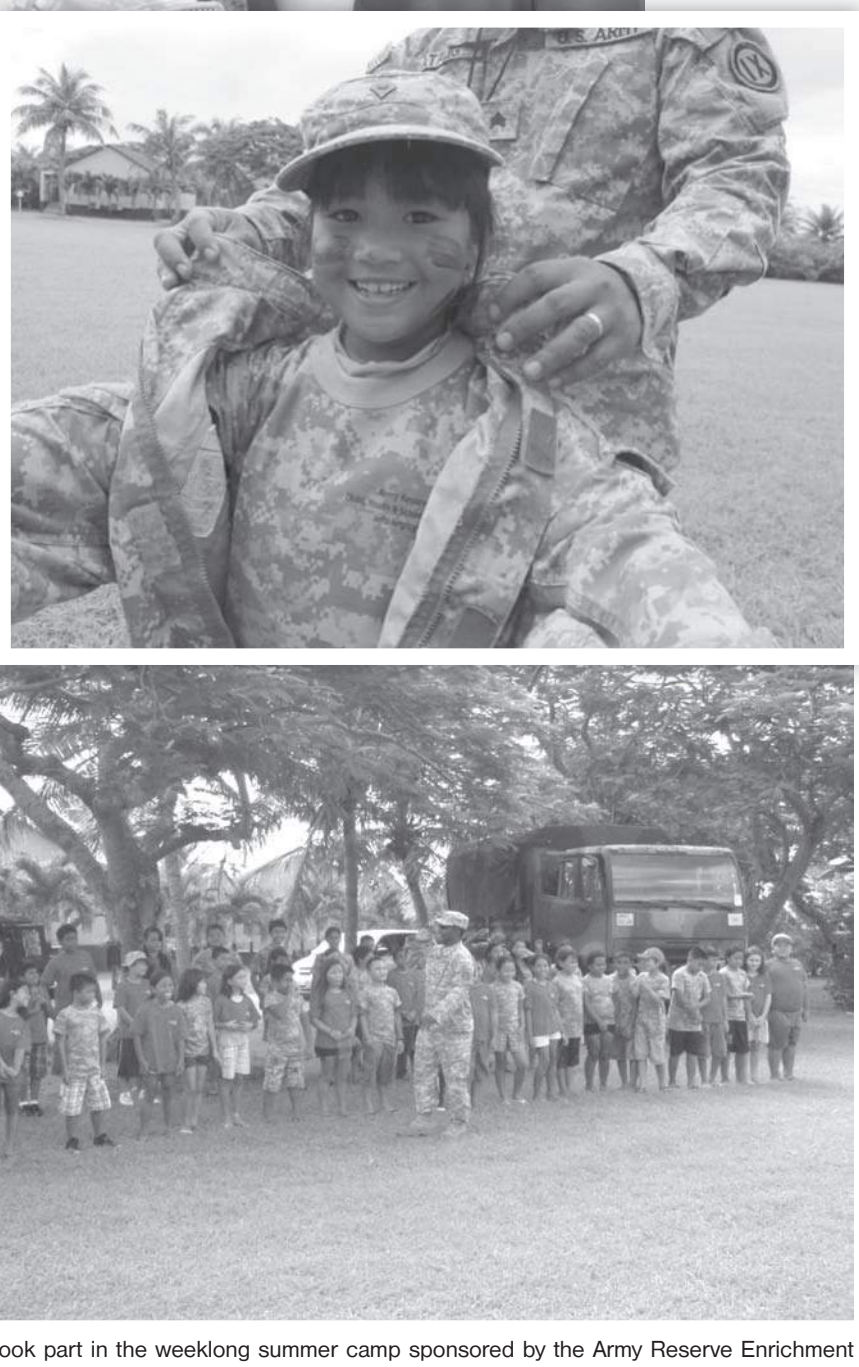
A boy gets his face painted during Ayuda Network's 20th Anniversary Family Fun Day held last July 28 at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Children display their artistic skills on the painting booth of Ayuda Network's 20th Anniversary Family Fun Day held last July 28 at the Civic Center in Susupe.

BOOT CAMP

Participants of the summer camp sponsored by the Army Reserve Enrichment Camp line up to have their faces painted by a U.S. Army Reserve volunteer at Mariana Resort and Spa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A youth participants is all smiles after trying out U.S. Army fatigues during the summer camp at Mariana Resort and Spa.

Over 80 children took part in the weeklong summer camp sponsored by the Army Reserve Enrichment Camp at Mariana Resort and Spa.

BON VOYAGE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Longtime Hafadai Beach Hotel accountant Marlon Estigoy, center in orange and blue striped polo shirt, poses with officemates and friends during his farewell party held recently at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

Marlon Estigoy poses with his friends' children, many of whom are his godchildren during his farewell party held recently at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

Micronesian Brokers, Inc.'s Kathy Pinaroc, left, and Hafadai Beach Hotel's Susan Gaspar flank Marlon Estigoy during his farewell party held recently at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

Business

Shoppers' spending a bright note for economy

NEW YORK (AP)—Shoppers showed some spending muscle in July, once summer clearance sales and the hottest July in 50 years got them in the mood.

Solid sales reports from retailers Thursday took some of the sting out of weak June manufacturing data. And improving trends in unemployment benefit applications provide hope for slightly better job growth in coming months a day before the government reports on July employment.

U.S. retailers reported better-than-expected July revenue in stores open at least a year, an encouraging sign at the beginning of the back-to-school season, the second-biggest shopping season behind the holidays.

A preliminary compilation by the International Council of Shopping Centers of 20 retailers found revenue in stores open at least a year rose 4.6 percent in July, higher than the 3 percent to 3.5 percent the ICSC expected. Economists watch the numbers because consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

The figures are a key measure of retailers' health because they exclude newly opened and closed stores.

Analysts said it was a positive sign that Americans hit the mall, undaunted by the fact that there are few signs that the economy is improving.

"I think the U.S. consumer surprised a lot of people," said Chris Donnelly, global industry managing director for retail at Accenture. "When you look at income, the savings rate, and unemployment, there's still a lot of cause for pessimism, but the U.S. consumer is amazingly resilient and has spurts of spending."

The reeling European economy isn't helping. Stocks slumped Wednesday after The European Central Bank decided against taking new action to attack the continent's debt crisis. By late morning, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 107 points to 12,864.

And a pair of government reports Tuesday pointed to more weakness with U.S. manufacturing and only slight improvement in the slumping job market.

Companies placed fewer orders with U.S. factories in June than May. The Commerce Department said orders fell 0.5 percent, the third decline in four months. And orders that signal business investment plans dropped 1.7 percent, pulled down by less demand for computers and machinery.

The number of Americans seeking weekly unemployment benefits rose by 8,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 365,000, the Labor Department said in a separate report. Seasonal distortions caused by fewer temporary layoffs in the auto industry this summer may have skewed the number higher, Labor officials said.

AP

In this Thursday, July 12, 2012 photo, a shopper looks at shoes on sale at the Pembroke Gardens living center in Pembroke Pinees, Fla. Americans spent no more in June than they did in May, even though their income grew at the fastest pace in three months. The Commerce Department said Tuesday, July 31, 2012 that consumer spending was flat in June after declining 0.1 percent in May.

European bank willing to buy bonds to save euro

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—The European Central Bank is preparing to unleash its financial might and buy government bonds to help drive down borrowing costs in debt-ridden countries like Spain and Italy, caught in the grip of what president Mario Draghi called a "worsening crisis."

Draghi urged leaders of the 17 countries that use the euro to use their bailout fund to take the same action, sending a clear message: Europe's financial crisis requires more forceful remedies than leaders have so far been able to muster.

The move towards bond buying came a day after the Federal Reserve hinted it was leaning toward further action to stimulate U.S. growth, highlighting the growing pressure on central bankers to rescue weak economies across the globe.

Financial markets were disappointed by the lack of immediate action and that the bank had few specifics to offer on the bank's emerging plan to save the euro. Stocks were sharply lower across Europe, while borrowing costs crept higher for the eurozone's financially strapped countries.

Draghi said ECB policymakers will work on a more detailed plan in coming weeks, including how much money to put into the effort to lower interest rates on governments' short-term bonds. The bank would hope for better results than an earlier bond-buying effort that had only limited impact.

Draghi's remarks came during a press conference that followed a bank decision to keep its benchmark short-term interest rate unchanged at a record low 0.75 percent.

"There wasn't any specific instance that led us to the decision we had today, just a sense of the worsening crisis and the worsening consequences," Draghi said.

He said the recent spike in interest rates for the short-term bonds of countries such as Spain and Italy was a symptom of larger stresses across the region, which faces slower growth and rising unemployment.

Negative reaction in the markets was strongest in Spain and Italy, the third- and fourth-largest economies in the eurozone and the countries most vulnerable to high borrowing costs. The interest rate, or yield, on Spain's 10-year bonds rose above 7 percent, while the country's main stock index plunged by nearly 5 percent. The yield on Italy's 10-year bonds climbed above 6 percent and the country's main stock market index sank by more than 4 percent. The euro fell 0.2 percent to $1.2215.

In the U.S., the Dow Jones industrial average fell 144 points to 12,827.

Financial markets in the U.S. and Europe had risen last week after Draghi gave a speech in London that many investors interpreted as a signal that the bank would take decisive action.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan Airlines to list again on Tokyo exchange

TOKYO (AP)—Japan Airlines, which was bailed out by the government in 2010 and removed from the Tokyo stock market, is going to be listed again next month, likely allowing all public funds to be recouped. JAL, which competes against All Nippon Airways in Japan, filed for one of the country's biggest-ever bankruptcies in January 2010, saddled with debt, unprofitable routes and a bloated workforce. It received a 350 billion yen government-orchestrated bailout. The Enterprise Turnaround Initiative Corp. of Japan, the body overseeing JAL's bailout, said Friday it will sell the 175 million shares it owns in JAL as part of the listing that is slated for Sept. 19. The value of that share sale is estimated at more than 600 billion yen ($7.6 billion), according to Kyodo News service.

House passes livestock disaster relief bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House on Thursday extended disaster assistance to livestock producers reeling from rising feed prices caused by the drought that has scorched much of the nation. The 223-197 vote to revive expired disaster relief programs for cattle and sheep producers was one of the House's last actions before lawmakers left for their five-week August recess. The Senate was not acting on the bill as it wrapped up its pre-recess work, and Democratic opponents characterized the legislation as cover for Republicans having to explain to rural constituents why they put off action on a comprehensive five-year farm policy bill.

With no concrete action in Europe, stocks slump

NEW YORK (AP)—The European Central Bank on Thursday gamely promised to keep tackling the continent's debt crisis. But the markets wanted much more. Stocks sank across the U.S. and Europe, the euro fell against the dollar and investors dumped bonds issued by the governments of Spain and Italy. Investors had been expecting more immediate action from the ECB Bank and were disappointed by the plan's lack of details, especially considering the ECB president's pledge last week to do "whatever it takes" to keep the euro intact. A week later, investors' response was more like: "whatever."

Report says warnings ignored in Solyndra loan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans investigating the government's investment in a bankrupt solar panel manufacturer have concluded that the Obama administration ignored numerous red flags about the company's financial viability, leaving taxpayers on the hook for more than $500 million.

For months, Republican lawmakers have made the government's loan to California-based Solyndra Inc. the centerpiece of their criticisms of President Barack Obama's $787 billion economic stimulus package. The release of the report Thursday by the House Energy and Commerce Committee gave them another opportunity to reinforce that message.

The White House countered that the report showed that none of the accusations that Republicans had made about political interference in approving the loan turned out to be true. Democrats on the committee also released a memorandum taking issue with the findings.

"The Republican report is partisan and one-sided. It does not substantiate the primary allegation that motivated the committee's Solyndra investigation, which is that the loan guarantee decision was a form of political payoff to a campaign contributor," the Democratic memo said.

The Energy and Commerce investigation lasted 18 months and included the review of more than 300,000 pages of documents. Backers of the loan have said competition from Chinese solar-panel manufacturers was a major factor in Solyndra's failure. The report said White House Office of Management and Budget staff was aware that China's effort to penetrate the U.S. market could hurt Solyndra.

An email from an OMB reviewer in August 2009 said pricing pressures from China "raise concerns about how strong Solyndra's position will be in the face of rising competition."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,878.88	1,365.00	2,909.77
-92.18	-10.14	-10.44
-0.71%	-0.74%	-0.36%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9538	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7546	Philippine Peso	41.874
British Pound	0.6442	Indian Rupee	56.12	Singapore Dollar	1.2476
Canadian Dollar	1.0055	Indonesian Rupiah	9490.75	South Korean Won	1134.1
Chinese Yuan	6.3725	Japanese Yen	78.1895	Swiss Franc	0.9857
Euro	0.8205	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1345	Taiwan Dollar	30.0045
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2286	Thailand Baht	31.618

Nation

FAA: 3 jets over DC never on collision course

WASHINGTON (AP)—None of the commuter jets that flew too close together near Washington on Tuesday was ever on course to collide head-on with the others, federal officials said Thursday.

During a news conference, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood strongly disputed media reports characterizing what happened near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as a near-miss.

"At no point were the three aircraft on a head-to-head course. They were not on a collision course," said Michael Huerta, administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The FAA said in a statement it "is investigating the incident and will take appropriate action to address the miscommunication." The National Transportation Safety Board said it, too, is investigating.

The jet problem occurred Tuesday afternoon after a miscommunication between a manager at Potomac Consolidated Terminal Radar Approach Control and two traffic management coordinators at the airport, Huerta said. The exact nature of the miscommunication was not immediately clear, but there was apparently a failure on both ends to follow standard procedure.

Air traffic controllers at the time had been changing the direction planes were landing and taking off at the airport because of bad weather including several thunderstorms, the closest about 6 miles south. Controllers cleared two outbound flights to head in the direction of an incoming plane.

Both LaHood and Huerta praised the work of air traffic controllers to quickly set the US Airways-operated commuter planes on another path once they learned they were too close together. Huerta said the planes, which were carrying 192 passengers and crew members, were on different headings at different altitudes and thus never would have crashed.

All of the planes were equipped with collision avoidance systems, but none was activated Tuesday, Huerta said.

When asked by a reporter, LaHood refused to discuss what may have happened if the planes had not been diverted by the air traffic controller.

Federal guidelines require that commercial jets remain separated by at least 1,000 vertical feet and 3.5 lateral miles.

The agency said the landing plane, which departed from Portland, Maine, came within 800 vertical feet and about nine-tenths of a lateral mile of one departing plane and 800 vertical feet and 2.4 lateral miles of a second outbound plane. The outbound planes were bound for Kansas City and Columbus, Ohio.

A former pilot and air traffic controller, who now heads the non-profit Flight Safety Foundation in Alexandria, Va., said the fact that onboard collision-avoidance alarm systems did not go off is "telling." If two planes are on an imminent collision course, that alarm would have sounded, and that system is very reliable, William Voss said.

AP

A US Airways airplane makes its final approach at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012. The Washington Monument is in background.

Obama and Romney trade barbs over economic plans

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP)—Mitt Romney promised Thursday that his economic program will create 12 million new jobs in the next four years, and likened President Barack Obama to a "dog trying to chase its tail" when it comes to strengthening the sluggish recovery.

Firing back instantly, Obama said his rival favors "trickle-down fairy dust" that has failed to fix the economy in the past, and unleashed a new television ad with a scathing summation of Romney's tax plans: "He pays less. You pay more."

The two men campaigned in battleground states hundreds of miles apart, the incumbent in Florida, his challenger in Colorado, both on a mission to convert undecided voters to their side in a race dominated by the economy and high joblessness.

Nor was there any summer lull in the television ad wars. Americans For Prosperity, an independent group that backs Romney, intends to launch a $25 million ad campaign beginning next week, according to officials familiar with the arrangements. The organization was founded by David and Charles Koch, billionaire brothers, and has spent about $15 million in swing states this year on ads attacking Obama.

For Romney, the day meant a return to domestic campaigning after a weeklong overseas trip. Aides say he intends to disclose a vice presidential pick before the Republican National Convention opens on Aug. 27 in Tampa, Fla., but the former Massachusetts governor told reporters: "I've got nothing to give you" by way of information on his decision.

Instead, he unveiled what aides called Romney's plan for more jobs and more take-home pay, backed by an eight-page paper arguing that the economic stimulus and other policies backed by Obama "exacerbated the economy's structural problems and weakened the recovery ... At the present rate of job creation, the nation will never return to full employment," it said, on the eve of the release of the government's official report on July joblessness.

Following the release of Friday's jobs report, Obama planned to use the backdrop of the White House and surround himself with families who would benefit from the election year middle-class tax cut he's pushing Congress to adopt. "As dysfunctional as Washington can be, this fight is far from hopeless," White House senior adviser David Plouffe said in an email.

In remarks in Golden, Colo., Romney said his economic policies would lead to creation of 12 million jobs in the four years of his term, if he is elected, and help make North America energy independent, a pledge that aides said included Canada and Mexico as well as the United States.

Romney pledged expanded international trade, particularly with Latin America, and vowed to confront China over its own policies. "I'm finally going to sit down with the Chinese and they're going to understand that if they cheat there are going to be consequences, because we're not going to let them walk all over us," the former Massachusetts governor said.

Romney: Reid's claim about unpaid taxes 'untrue'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Put up or shut up, says Mitt Romney. Just sayin', retorts Harry Reid. For both men, it's a taxing situation.

Romney demanded Thursday that the Democratic Senate leader back up the story he's been passing around this week that an investor with Romney's old firm, Bain Capital, has told him that Romney didn't pay any taxes for 10 years.

Reid offers no evidence to substantiate the claim—he even says he's not sure it's true—and won't reveal who made it. For the Nevada Democrat, the claim explains why Romney is adamant about not releasing more than a year or two of his tax returns.

Romney went on conservative radio host Sean Hannity's show Thursday morning to brand the claim untrue.

"Well, it's time for Harry to put up or shut up," Romney said. "Harry's going to have to describe who it is he spoke with because of course, that's totally and completely wrong."

Romney added: "It's untrue, dishonest, and inaccurate. It's wrong. So I'm looking forward to have Harry reveal his sources and we'll probably find out it's the White House. Look, the Obama campaign is going to do everything in its power to try and talk about anything besides the president's record."

Reid repeated the claim on the Senate floor. Following Romney's response, he released a statement saying that "it's clear Romney is hiding something."

"When it comes to answering the legitimate questions the American people have about whether he avoided paying his fair share in taxes or why he opened a Swiss bank account, Romney has shut up," Reid said. "But as a presidential candidate, it's his obligation to put up, and release several years' worth of tax returns just like nominees of both parties have done for decades."

Romney has released his 2010 federal tax return and a summary of his 2011 return. In 2010, he paid 13.9 percent tax on income of $21.6 million. Most of Romney's income came from investment gains, which are taxed at a lower rate than earned income.

His wealth estimated at $250 million, Romney has said that his critics will distort and use against him any additional tax information he releases.

Vacant Detroit becomes dumping ground for the dead

DETROIT (AP)—From the street, the two decomposing bodies were nearly invisible, concealed in an overgrown lot alongside worn-out car tires and a moldy sofa. The teenagers had been shot, stripped to their underwear and left on a deserted block.

They were just the latest victims of foul play whose remains went undiscovered for days after being hidden deep inside Detroit's vast urban wilderness—a crumbling wasteland rarely visited by outsiders and infrequently patrolled by police.

Abandoned and neglected parts of the city are quickly becoming dumping grounds for the dead—at least a dozen bodies in 12 months' time. And authorities acknowledge there's little they can do.

"You can shoot a person, dump a body and it may just go unsolved" because of the time it may take for the corpse to be found, officer John Garner said.

The bodies have been purposely hidden or discarded in alleys, fields, vacant houses, abandoned garages and even a canal. Seven of the victims are believed to have been slain outside Detroit and then dumped within the city.

It's a pattern made possible by more than four decades of urban decay and suburban flight. White residents started moving to burgeoning suburbs in the 1950s, then stepped up their exodus after a deadly 1967 race riot. Detroit's black middle class followed over the next two decades, leaving block after block of empty homes.

Over time, tens of thousands of houses deteriorated. Some collapsed, others were demolished. Empty lots gave way to block-long fields.

Jacob Kudla and Jourdan Bobbish were found July 27 in a field off Lyford Street, a lonely road that borders an industrial area and a small municipal airport. The teens from suburban Westland, 18 and 17, respectively, had been visiting Kudla's uncle in Detroit when they disappeared July 22.

Their corpses were found by someone walking along the desolate block. The closest house, about 100 yards away, belongs to 74-year-old Ella Dunn.

Asia

Afghans fear what will happen when troops leave

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Asadullah Ramin has lost all hope in his homeland—he's so worried about what will happen when U.S. and international troops leave that he's ready to pay a smuggler to whisk his family out of Afghanistan.

It would cost the 50-year-old, self-employed electronics engineer tens of thousands of dollars to leave his middle-class life in the Afghan capital and start a new chapter with his wife and their three daughters. He has done OK in recent years, even getting contracts from the foreign forces, and he has warm memories of Kabul from his teens—before Soviet forces invaded the nation.

But he wouldn't hesitate for a moment. He already paid to have his two sons smuggled to a European county he won't disclose.

"If I could go in the next hour, I would leave everything—the house, my shop," Ramin said, tears welling in his eyes as he spoke in his dusty workshop.

"I have no hope, no hope," he said, opening his palms as if pleading to be understood.

The United States and its allies have tried to reassure Afghans that they are not abandoning the country when international combat troops leave by the end of 2014. Donor nations have pledged billions to bankroll Afghan security forces and billions more in development aid. Country after country has signed a long-term partnership pact with Kabul.

But the promises have done little to buoy the hopes of Afghans who are in despair about the future of their nation.

Among Afghans around the country interviewed by The Associated Press, the worry is pervasive. Many are deeply skeptical that Afghan police and security forces, which the U.S.-led coalition has spent years trying to build, will be able to fight insurgents and militants without American and NATO fighting alongside. Worse-case scenarios that some fear: The Afghan forces could splinter along ethnic line and prompt civil war, the nation could plunge into a deep recession, or the Kabul government—plagued with corruption and still fragile despite efforts to establish its authority—would remain too weak to hold off a Taliban takeover.

Just a 45-minute drive south of Kabul, residents of Wardak province directly feel the tenuousness. The province is a battleground for Afghan and coalition forces trying to squash hotbeds of the Taliban. Residents quickly warn visitors that it's dangerous just to go past a checkpoint less a kilometer (half-mile) outside the provincial capital, Maidan Shahr.

AP

In this Monday, July 30, 2012 photo Regwida Neayish 19, right, surfs the Internet with a friend at the Sahar Gul Internet cafe in Kabul, Afghanistan.

"We don't know if the government has been successful or not," 17-year-old Mohammad Ashaq said, chatting inside a tiny pharmacy in the city. "Most people think that after 2014, the government will not exist."

Hanging over the fears is a sense that history could repeat itself. Afghans felt abandoned by the U.S. after 1989, when the Soviet army withdrew from Afghanistan. U.S. support to mujahedeen fighters battling the Soviets dried up quickly and Afghanistan sank into civil war as militias and warlords battled for power, devastating Kabul. That was followed by the rise of the Taliban and years of rule under their repressive regime.

In one sign of the lack of confidence, the number of Afghan asylum seekers in 44 industrialized countries went up 34 percent in 2011 over the year before, according to the latest figures issued by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. In 2011, 35,700 Afghans sought asylum, compared to 26,000 the year before.

ASIA BRIEFS

Teenager kills 8, wounds 5 in China knife attack

BEIJING (AP)—A teenager killed eight people with a knife and wounded five more in northeast China after falling out with his girlfriend, state media said Thursday. The teen killed two of her family members and six more people before fleeing, the state-run Legal Daily newspaper said. It reported he was caught but did not describe the circumstances. The official Xinhua News Agency said the attack took place Wednesday night in Liaoning province. Media said the 17-year-old suspect is from Fushun city and his surname is Li. The attack happened in Yongling town.

Japan hangs 2 inmates on death row

TOKYO (AP)—Japan has hanged two death row inmates in the country's first executions since March. Japan's Justice Ministry identified the prisoners executed Friday as 40-year-old Junya Hattori and 31-year-old Kyozo Matsumura. Hattori was convicted of raping and killing a 19-year-old woman in 2002. Matsumura killed two of his relatives in 2007. Japan is one of the few industrialized countries that have capital punishment, which is carried out by hanging. The lack of transparency in the system has been criticized by human rights groups, but capital punishment is generally supported by the public, according to opinion polls.

Storied Aussie outlaw's remains returned to family

SYDNEY (AP)—The skeleton of Australia's most notorious criminal will finally be returned to his descendants 132 years after he was executed, the government said Thursday, ending the family's long quest to find and properly bury the remains of a man many Australians now consider a folk hero. Ned Kelly led a gang of bank robbers in Australia's southern Victoria state before he was hanged in 1880. The whereabouts of his corpse was long unknown, but forensic scientists identified Kelly's nearly headless skeleton last year after it was found in a mass grave outside a now-closed prison. Most of Kelly's skull, which was stolen long ago, is still missing, but the identification of the skeleton was followed by a battle over what to do with his bones.

UN: NKorea needs immediate food aid due to flood

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea needs immediate food assistance after heavy rains killed scores of people and submerged vast swaths of farmland, a U.N. office said Thursday.

That assessment was released by the U.N. resident coordinator's office in Pyongyang following visits to flood-stricken areas in North Korea earlier this week. Floods caused by two storm systems last month killed at least 119 people and left tens of thousands homeless, according to the North's state media.

The United States said it would consider a request for assistance but has not received one, and it was not aware of Pyongyang making such requests to other states.

"If requested, it would be something that that we would carefully evaluate but we are not at that point," State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell told a news conference in Washington Thursday.

The flooding, which occurred on the heels of a severe drought, renewed concerns about North Korea's ability to feed its people. In June, the U.N. said two-thirds of the country's 24 million people are coping with chronic food shortages.

Thursday's U.N. report said torrential rains caused severe damage to homes, public buildings, infrastructure and farms, affecting maize, soybean and rice fields. The worst-hit areas are Anju city and Songchon County in South Phyongan Province, as well as Chonnae County in Kangwon Province, where residents are in dire need of emergency food aid, it said.

Some 36,000 families in Anju do not have access to clean water; wells are contaminated due to overflow of pit latrines and open drainage, raising the risk of a diarrhea outbreak, the report said. A city official told The Associated Press earlier this week that it was the worst disaster in Anju's history.

North Korean officials have asked the U.N. to prioritize the release of emergency supplies, including food and fuel, Martin Nesirky, spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, told reporters Thursday in New York.

Aid groups have donated emergency supplies, including the British-based charity ShelterBox, which dispatched 270 tents to North Korea, according to Howard Chang, a spokesman for Rotary International, who provides funding to ShelterBox.

The U.S. government gave $900,000 in relief supplies for North Korea after deadly floods last year. A subsequent plan this year to send 240,000 tons in food aid in return for nuclear concessions was scuppered when North Korea tested a long-range rocket in April. Washington said that step undermined confidence that North Korea would stick to its agreement to allow proper monitoring of food distributions.

Taiwan flooded with almost 5 feet of typhoon rain

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A tropical storm inched across northern Taiwan on Thursday after already dumping up to five feet of rain that has flooded farmland, swollen rivers and paralyzed life on much of the densely populated island of 23 million people.

Saola weakened from a typhoon to a tropical storm by late afternoon, but its slow movement and continuing heavy rains raised the prospect of devastating flooding in areas that have absorbed more than 150 centimeters (58 inches) of rain since Tuesday. It has caused five deaths and left two people missing in Taiwan after killing 26 people in the Philippines.

In the day in the northeastern county of Ilan, rescuers used rubber boats and amphibious vehicles to help hundreds escape flooded homes.

Dozens of flights were canceled at Taipei's main international airport, where heavy winds destroyed two jetways, and rail transport throughout the island was disrupted. All seven major reservoirs in Taiwan released large quantities of water to prevent flooding.

By nighttime, Saola was centered just off northern Taiwan, moving northwest toward China at 17 kph (10 mph). It had sustained winds of 90 kph (54 mph), gusting to 119 kph (71 mph).

Offices and businesses were closed throughout northern Taiwan. In Taipei, normally busy streets were deserted except for cleanup crews clearing off fallen trees and branches. The Defense Ministry mobilized 48,000 soldiers to help mitigate the storm's impact.

Television footage showed acre upon acre of flooded farmland in low-lying coastal areas, punctuated by scenes of raging rivers and roads blocked by mudslides in the island's mountainous center.

World

UN General Assembly to denounce Syrian crackdown

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—With the U.N. Security Council deadlocked over the Syrian crisis, the General Assembly prepared Friday to denounce Syria for unleashing tanks, artillery, helicopters and warplanes on the people of Aleppo and Damascus, and demand that the Assad regime keep its chemical and biological weapons warehoused and under strict control.

The Assembly was overshadowed by the resignation of former U.N. chief Kofi Annan on Thursday as the joint U.N.-Arab League envoy to Syria after his peace proposals failed.

The anti-Syria resolution was expected to easily pass in the 193-member General Assembly after its Arab sponsors de-fanged two key provisions in the original draft—a demand that President Bashar Assad resign, and a call for other nations to place sanctions on Syria over its civil war. U.N. peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous, meanwhile, told the Security Council on Thursday that U.N. military observers in Aleppo are seeing "a considerable buildup of military means, where we have reason to believe that the main battle is about to start." The rebels have commandeered tanks, and are bringing them into combat as Syrian warplanes strike back.

"Even in Damascus, I was there a few days ago, one could hear explosions regularly, interminably," Ladsous told reporters after briefing the Council.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged restraint on all sides, saying, "Both the government and the opposition forces continue to demonstrate their determination to rely on ever-increasing violence."

But in the General Assembly, diplomats reviewed a draft resolution by Saudi Arabia that focused all its indignation on Assad's government, military forces and the militias that enforce the regime.

It denounced attacks on children as young as 9 years old by the Syrian government, military intelligence services and militias, railing against `killing and maiming, arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and ill-treatment, including sexual violence, and use as human shields."

In a sign of how quickly the situation can change, the resolution that began to circulate Monday reaffirmed its support for Annan, though he had resigned as special envoy on Thursday.

The original draft had called for Assad to resign, highlighting an Arab League call on July 22 for "the Syrian president to step down from power, in order to facilitate a peaceful political transition."

That naked call for regime change appalled many U.N. members when the draft was discussed in private with regional groups on Tuesday. Syria was one of the original 51 members of the United Nations in 1945. Now, the world body set up to protect nation-states from invasion and foreign domination was about to demand a change in government from one of its charter members.

Russia and China opposed the draft, as expected. Both countries have cast a double-veto in the Security Council three times to kill resolutions that could have opened the door to sanctions on Syria, or even military intervention.

Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said he could not support the General Assembly's "extremely unbalanced and one-sided resolution. And those countries who are pushing this resolution most actively are the countries that are providing weapons to the armed opposition groups. This is unfortunately, the tragedy of the matter, something which made Kofi Annan's efforts so difficult."

But the Saudi sponsors of the draft resolution were taken aback when General Assembly nations including Brazil, India, Pakistan, South Africa and Argentina choked on the regime change and sanctions paragraphs in the draft. Iraq suffered for years under U.N. sanctions intended to pressure Saddam Hussein, but which only afflicted the Iraqi people, until he was toppled in 2003 by the United States, Britain, and their allies in the Gulf War.

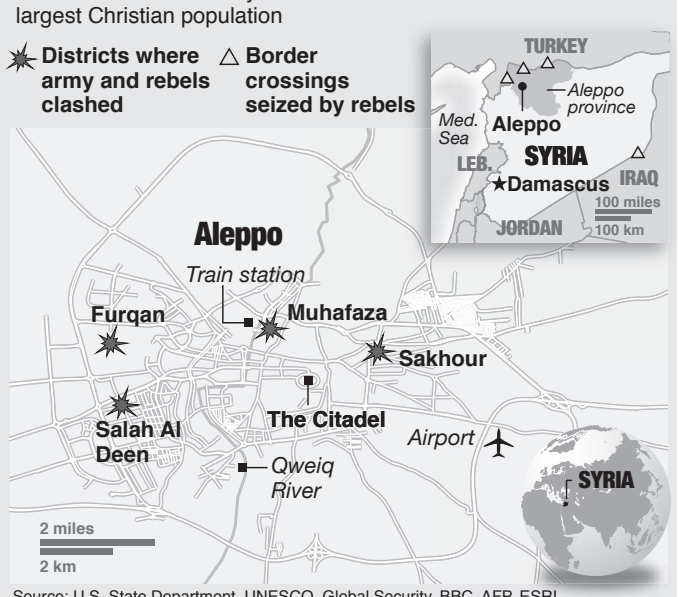
With the tougher language, the Saudi resolution was in danger of falling below 100 votes in the 193-member Assembly, and would be seen as weak and lacking moral authority. General Assembly resolutions are unenforceable. The last General Assembly resolution on Syria, in February, had 137 votes in favor.

The draft was quickly pulled back and the regime change and sanctions provisions were stricken out by Wednesday. The revised resolution still demands that the Syrian army stop its shelling and helicopter attacks and withdraw to its barracks.

Syria's commercial capital

Tens of thousands of Aleppo residents have fled the city, while thousands are said to be living in schools, mosques and at other sites. Aid groups worry that a humanitarian disaster will arise if the combat and shelling spread to other districts of Syria's commercial hub.

- **Population** 4.6 million (metro area)
- **Height** 1,300 ft. (396 m) above sea level
- **Religion** Primarily Sunni Muslim, most of whom are Arab, but some who are Kurds; also home to the country's largest Christian population
- **Industry** Textiles, food processing, pharmaceuticals, plastics, glass, metal, cement
- **Landmark** The Citadel, a large structure in the center of the Old City that contains remains of ancient mosques, a palace and bath buildings



Source: U.S. State Department, UNESCO, Global Security, BBC, AFP, ESRI
Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2012 MCT

Syrian rebels accused of executions, other abuses

BEIRUT (AP)—The unsteady, hand-held video shows several bloodied prisoners, one in boxer shorts, being led into a noisy outdoor crowd and placed against a wall. The prisoners crouch and seem to avert their eyes as men carrying assault rifles shout slogans and take aim. The gunfire lasts for more than 30 seconds.

The international community has accused Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces of war crimes, but the gunmen in this gruesome video were rebels. Their slogans: "Free Syrian Army Forever!" and "God is Great!"

The video, which surfaced online this week, is fueling concerns that opposition fighters are capable of brutality that matches that of the regime they are seeking to topple—a charge that could badly damage the rebellion's ability to claim the moral high ground in the Syrian civil war.

As rebels gain more territory and a multitude of militias, jihadists and criminals join the fight against Assad, reports of serious human rights abuses committed by armed opposition elements are on the rise.

"As the Free Syrian Army and armed opposition gain more ground control, they are at a crossroad," said Nadim Houry, researcher at the New York based Human Rights Watch.

"They can either go down the route of revenge and killings and replicate the behavior that we have seen by pro-government forces, or take a genuine decision showing that what they're fighting for is not just about revenge but about human rights and justice," he said.

The video sparked international condemnation, including a rare rebuke of rebel tactics from the Obama administration on Thursday.

"This is abhorrent and inconsistent with the type of struggle for freedom and a new Syria that the broad opposition is looking for," State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell told reporters.

Ventrell said the U.S. was encouraged that opposition commanders have condemned abuses, but stressed that "summary executions committed by any party are abhorrent and inconsistent with international law, and those responsible must be held to account."

Annan quits as Syrian envoy, blames lack of unity

BEIRUT (AP)—Kofi Annan announced his resignation Thursday as peace envoy to Syria and issued a blistering critique of world powers, bringing to a dramatic end a frustrating six-month effort that failed to achieve even a temporary cease-fire as the country plunged into civil war.

Annan also had harsh words for the Syrian regime, saying it was clear President Bashar Assad "must leave office."

As the violence escalated on the ground, rebels used a captured tank to shell a military air base near Aleppo—one of the first known uses of heavy weapons by the insurgents.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, Annan blamed the Syrian government's intransigence, the growing militancy of Syrian rebels and a divided Security Council that failed to forcefully back his effort. Since he took on the job, Russia and China have twice used their veto power to block strong Western- and Arab-backed action against President Bashar Assad's regime.

The White House said Annan's resignation highlighted the failure of Russia and China to support action against Assad and called the regime's continued violence against its own people "disgusting."

"It is impossible for me or anyone to compel the Syrian government and also the opposition to take the steps to bring about the political process," said Annan, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former U.N. secretary general.

"You have to understand: As an envoy, I can't want peace more than the protagonists, more than the Security Council or the international community for that matter."

Annan singled out the regime for blame for the violence. But he also said the opposition's increasing militarization had contributed to dooming his six-point peace plan, which included a cease-fire and a Syrian-led political process to end the crisis.

"The bloodshed continues, most of all because of the Syrian government's intransigence, and continuing refusal to implement the six-point plan, and also because of the escalating military campaign of the opposition—all of which is compounded by the disunity of the international community," he said.

New Egypt government puts Brotherhood in key posts

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's Islamist president swore in his first new government Thursday, led by a devout Muslim and including five members of his Muslim Brotherhood in unglamorous but ideal ministries for a group whose long-term aim is to Islamize the most populous Arab nation.

The Cabinet is a far cry from the inclusive administration that President Mohammed Morsi has repeatedly promised. No other political factions came on board to join. Women and Christians received only token representation, and figures from the uprising that ousted Hosni Mubarak last year were left out.

The choices seemed aimed at playing down fears that the country's first ever government formed under the Muslim Brotherhood's aegis will seek to impose quick and radical change. Seven members of the outgoing, military-backed government, including the foreign, finance and culture ministers, have also kept their jobs, a move by Morsi and Prime Minister Hesham Kandil that may have been designed to inspire stability.

Also keeping his post as defense minister is Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, who served in the role for 20 years under Mubarak and was Egypt's military ruler for 17 months after Muabrak's ouster. The military said several weeks ago that it will decide who serves in the post, and Morsi and Kandil made no move to resist, a reflection of the overwhelming powers retained by the military after Morsi took office June 30.

Kandil, the obscure water and irrigation minister that Morsi picked to lead the new government as prime minister, sought to defend the makeup of his Cabinet. He called on Egyptians to rally behind it, promising it would represent all the people.

"We are all Egyptians in the Arab Republic of Egypt. The coming period is not easy, to say the least, and we are all in the same boat," he told a news conference hours ahead of the swearing-in ceremony. "This is the people's government. It does not belong to this or that trend." He also paid tribute to last year's 18-day anti-Mubarak uprising, saying his government will work toward realizing the goals of its slogan: "Bread, freedom and social justice."

The government takes office at a time when tensions are mounting over the country's seemingly endless woes—from tenuous security and sectarian violence to growing popular discontent over widespread power and water outages and shortages.

In a sign of the chaos, one person was shot to death by police Thursday when a crowd of hundreds went on a rampage against a Nile-side luxury hotel in central Cairo. The crowd threw firebombs at the hotel, smashed its lobby and set fire to 10 cars parked outside, a security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk the press. Police used tear gas and opened fire on the crowd, killng one person.

The crowd came from a slum located just behind the hotel, which is a twin-tower skyscraper complex that includes a glitzy shopping center and offices. Earlier in the day, several residents of the slum who had been hired by the hotel for protection had tried to get into the hotel to collect back payments. Police stopped them, an altercation ensued, and a policeman shot and wounded one of the men who later died. The larger crowd of nearly 500 returned later and attacked the hotel, the security official said.

Young Style

Gymnast Gabby Douglas captures gold

By ELLIOTT ALMOND
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

LONDON—Tears fell from Olympic gymnasts Thursday like the hard summer rains that soaked London.

There was joy.

Gabby Douglas, the wunderkind from Virginia Beach, Va., bounced off the walls as high as one of her triple summersaults after becoming the third consecutive American to win the crown jewel of Olympic gymnastics—the women's all-around title.

There was bitterness.

Viktoria Komova of Russia, runner-up at last year's world championships, fell about three-tenths of a point short to the lithe teen known as "The Flying Squirrel." As soon as the results flashed on the scoreboard Komova became inconsolable, waving away a sympathetic hand from a coach.

There was resignation.

American Aly Raisman, 18, stood stone-faced, head downcast and keenly aware of a lost opportunity after losing the bronze medal in a tiebreaker. Russian Aliya Mustafina was awarded third place after officials dropped the lowest scores for both gymnasts.

"I don't think it is fair," said Mahai Brestyan, Raisman's coach. "These kids are both deserving of the same medals."

The reactions represented the range of emotions that filled 02 Arena in North Greenwich on one of the marquee days of the London Games.

While many had strong opinions about their performances they were unanimous in feting a Virginia teen-ager who left home at 14 to pursue her Olympic ambitions.

Douglas, 16, showed up in West Des Moines, Iowa, to train with Liang

MCT

Gabrielle Douglas of the United States competes on the beam on her way to winning gold in the women's individual all-around gymastics competition during the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, England, on Thursday, August 2, 2012.

Chow, the man who coached Shawn Johnson in 2008. An exacting man, Chow wasn't sure whether Douglas could reach the heights she did in London, leading the United States women to the team gold medal and bouncing back with four more stunning routines to grab the individual accolades.

The "It Girl" of London was supposed to Michigan's Jordyn Wieber, the reigning world all-around champion. But the Americans are so strong Wieber didn't qualify for the individual competition after finishing fourth in the preliminaries. Only two from each country are eligible to advance to the final.

While Wieber had to watch from the sideline, the buzz Thursday came from the high-strung teen that oozes personality on the mat as much as off it. Douglas is so precocious she persuaded her mom to let her move to Iowa two years ago to work with Chow. It took a full-blown campaign because Natalie Hawkins was having none of it.

Hawkins finally agreed when her two other daughters supported Douglas' decision to leave home. Douglas moved in with Missy Parton, whose daughter also trained with Chow.

Now Douglas has joined Nastia Liukin, Carly Patterson and Mary Lou Retton as the country's only all-around champions. She is alone as the first African-American gold medalist in the coveted event.

"Yeah, I kind of forgot about that," Douglas said of the barrier-breaking moment. "I hope that I inspire people. My mother said you can inspire a nation."

She inspired fans watching the Olympic gymnastics competition this week.

Raisman's coach called Douglas' superb performances in London perhaps the most surprising element of the competition. Brestyan had noticed Douglas' inconsistency in practice.

"Suddenly she hit three routines in a row," he said of the team preliminaries, team final and individual final.

Chow, though, knew his gymnast was a big-game competitor. Four years after Johnson lost the all-around gold medal to Liukin, a representative of Chow's Gymnastics catapulted to the top of the world.

"She's ready to move to a higher stage," he said.

It's not abundantly clear how much higher this Flying Squirrel can go. She has serious hang time in the uneven bars. But Thursday, Douglas was in command from the moment she launched into a back handspring and 2{ twisting somersaults for an impressive vault.

After that Komova played catch up. Because victories come in the slightest of margins, the outcome remained in doubt when the leaders entered the fourth_and final_rotation. Douglas had another dazzling floor exercise, the event in which she gets to showcase her lighter side all the while performing gravity-defying aerial flips.

Komova went last. She had a solid program that just wasn't strong enough to overcome Douglas. The Russian anxiously watched the scoreboard as minutes passed before officials posted the results.

Once Komova recovered from the fact she had lost, the gymnast acknowledged Douglas "performed beautifully."

Douglas felt something special would happen when riding the arena in a downpour. Her mom used to say rain was a sign from God that the day would be great.

"I just told myself, 'Believe,' " she said. "Don't fear, just 'believe.' "

The unbroken belief led to the kind of tears Douglas could share with the world.

MCT

USA's Gabrielle Douglas waves to the crowd right after she won the women's individual all-around finals at North Greenwich Arena during the Summer Olympics on Thursday, August 2, 2012 in London, England.

America's new sweetheart is golden girl of judo

By KEVIN BAXTER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONDON—When Kayla Harrison won the women's 78-kilogram title Thursday, she gave the U.S. its first Olympic gold medal in judo. And if the sport's leaders are hoping to use that victory to popularize judo in the U.S., they couldn't have picked a better spokeswoman than Harrison, a likable, enthusiastic and media-savvy 22-year-old with an inspirational personal story she's not afraid to share.

"Kayla is the individual that you can cheer for at any time," says Eddie Liddie, a bronze medalist in judo at the 1984 Games and now the director of high performance for U.S. Judo. "Class act all the way. With her opponents, with her teammates, with her family.

"You want your girl to grow up ... (and for) her to be Kayla. She's been the darling of our team for a while. Her face has been the face of USA Judo. She came in, she handled it well."

Added her coach Jimmy Pedro, a two-time Olympic medalist: "The American media have really embraced her. They followed her. They're going to eat her up from here until forever. She's a good, good person. Cares about other people. Always willing to give back.

"She has an attitude of gratitude. And there's nobody more deserving than her to climb to the top of podium. She never skips a practice, she never skips a run, a lift."

Even her opponents like her, which can be rare in a combat sport. "Kayla was a great competitor," said Great Britain's Gemma Gibbons, whom Harrison beat 2-0 in the final. "She is a very deserved winner."

MCT

Kayla Harrison of the United States, right, battles Gemma Gibbons of Great Britain on her way to winning gold in the Judo Women's 78 kg division at the ExCeL Centre during the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, England, Thursday, August 2, 2012.

As a teenager Harrison tried to run away from home and briefly considered suicide after suffering in silence through three years of sexual abuse at the hands of her first competitive judo coach. But she got a second chance at judo—and, she says, at life—after leaving small-town Ohio for suburban Boston and the elite judo program run by Pedro and his father, Big Jim.

Harrison has talked openly about her past, hoping, she says, to inspire others suffering as she did to seek help. And now she wants to inspire others to give judo a try too.

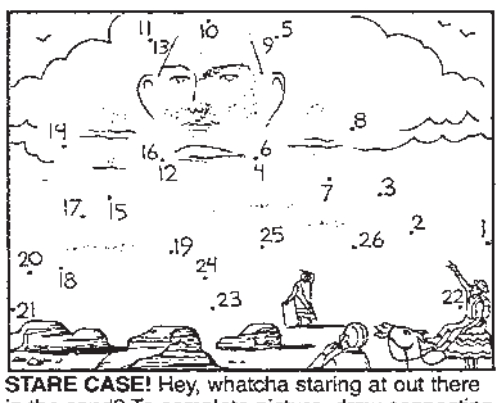
"The people I've looked up to my whole life are my heroes. I hope to be one and to bring this sport honor," she said. "I hope that America loves my story and hopefully a little girl or a little boy sees it and says, 'Wow, mom I want to do that.'"

I hope a million little kids sign up for judo in the United States. I hope we have seven Olympic champions in 2016."

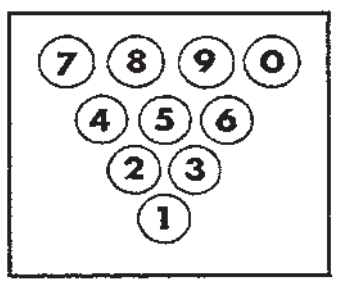
Harrison's medal, combined with a bronze won earlier by Marti Malloy in the women's lightweight division (57 kilograms), gave the United States two judo medals in London, a total it last matched in 1988. The United States has never won more than two judo medals in a single Games but almost topped that here since three other judoka made it to their semifinals.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



STARE CASE! Hey, whatcha staring at out there in the sand? To complete picture, draw connecting lines from dot to dot.



STRIKE-OUT TEASER

TO SCORE a strike in the diagram at left, simply cross out answers to posers below. That is to say, if answer to No. 1 is 0, cross out 0; if answer to No. 2 is 435, cross out 4,3 and 5 etc. Object is to cross out all 10 of the "pins."

1. TV show: "— Minutes."
2. Number of holes in six dozen doughnuts.
3. A bed, curiously, has — legs but only — foot.
4. If ABC is 123, HIE is —. Decode.
5. Add 32 to one-third of this number and the answer is 33: —.

Time limit: 2 minutes.

1—60. 2—72. 3—4:1. 4—8,9,5. 5—3.

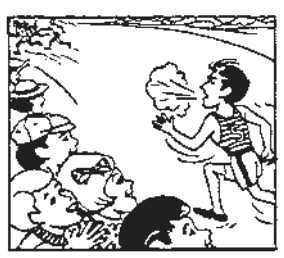
JOB HUNT! If Cher Ate is a teacher and Peter Carn is a carpenter, what jobs are held by Tina Erp, Mel Burp, Alan Mess and Tess Car? Rearrange letters for answers.

Painter, plumber, salesman and actress, respectively.

LETTER GO! Solve this verse-riddle, letter by letter. My first is in run, but not in race. My 2nd's in nose, but not in face. My 3rd's in door, but not in lock. My 4th's in herd, but not in flock. My 5th's in grass, but not in lawn. My 6th's in deer, but not in fawn. My 7th's in honest, but not in true. My 8th's in green, but not in blue.

What am I? Clue: My whole is an unlikely winner, but a favorite with the crowd.

What am I? I'm an underdog.



Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It's not known who made the following sage observation: "Arguing about whether the glass is half-full or half-empty misses the point, which is this: The bartender cheated you."

■ The longest war in history lasted 335 years and resulted in exactly zero casualties. In 1651, the Netherlands and the Isles of Scilly off Great Britain declared war upon each other, but nothing ever came of the conflict and it was soon forgotten. Finally, in 1986, the two combatants agreed to a peace treaty.

■ Do you suffer from cacodemonomania? If you believe that you are possessed by an evil spirit, you do.

■ The world's smallest mammal can be found only in Thailand and Myanmar. Weighing about as much as a dime, Kitti's hog-nosed bat is sometimes called the bumblebee bat due to its diminutive size.

■ You might be surprised to learn that an eagle can kill a young deer and fly away with it.

■ The Beatles was not the first band in which John Lennon played. Those previous groups obviously didn't work out, though; in fact, at one point Lennon broke a washboard over a bandmate's head during a dispute. After the Beatles' success, though, Lennon apologized in style: He bought the poor guy a supermarket.

■ Those who study such things say that armadillos can be housebroken.

■ At sea level, water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit. At the top of Mount Everest, though, the lower air pressure reduces the boiling point to 156 degrees.

■ If you recycle one glass jar, you'll save enough energy to power a TV for three hours.

■■■

Thought for the Day: "The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people." —G.K. Chesterton

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MAGIC MAZE ● — COOKIE

F S Q O D L J H E C A X V E T
R P N L J A H F D B Y X S V T
S R P O M N E C I P S U K I G
R E F R I G E R A T O R E R D
B Z S S E N L X B H W U T A H
R Q I S U T O A L T N L J G T
I A I T A G T L E O R F U U D
R N R C A L O U E M Y O O S X
A O W V T T O R B S T C H R P
F O N L D N O M L A S A K S J
I G P I H C E T A L O C O H C

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Almond, Anise, Butter, Chocolate chip, Fortune, Molasses, Oatmeal, Oreo, Raisin, Refrigerator, Shortbread, Spice, Sugar, Toll House, Tough

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		×		9
×		−		×	
	−		×		10
÷		×		+	
	−		×		8
3		15		10	

1 2 2 4 5 6 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER — COOKIE

GO FIGURE ANSWER

9	1	×	7	+	2
	×		−		×
10	2	×	4	−	9
	+		×		÷
8	8	×	5	−	6
	10		15		3

Running with your dog

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I started my own fitness training about four months ago, and have done pretty well with daily runs. Now that my dog "Spirit" is out of puppyhood—he's about 9 months old—I've tried to take him along. But he didn't seem too excited the first time we went running together. He stopped running and tugged on his leash back toward home after just half a mile. How can I get Spirit into running?—Curt C., Boulder, Colo.

DEAR CURT: You've got to work Spirit up to it, just as you had to work your fitness upward. He gave a really clear signal that a half mile was his initial maximum distance; at that point it was time to take him home. Spirit is still very young to be out running, so don't get discouraged by that first-day showing; just gradually increase the distance each day in small increments, take Spirit home, and finish your own run.

Running with your dog can be rewarding, providing companionship and even a measure of security. But keep your dog's welfare in mind throughout the exercise. Heidi Ganahl of Camp Bow Wow offered some important tips for keeping your dog safe while running:

■ Don't feed your dog less than 1 hour before or after running, to avoid the possibility of bloat.

■ Put sunblock on your dog's nose on sunny days.

■ Make sure he drinks plenty of water before and after the run.

■ Check your dog's feet after each run for injuries.

■ Avoid running in very hot, humid weather, as dogs can overheat quickly.

■ Place reflective gear on your dog and yourself if running in the evening or early morning.

■■■

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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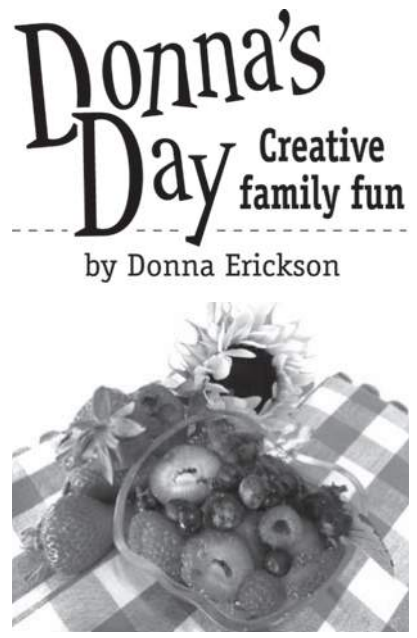
Fun with summer strawberries



Local strawberries are so sweet, juicy and luscious right now that I have to remind myself that summer's strawberry fields don't last forever. I savor the plump, red berries and love showing them off in new ways with my family. While they taste great au naturel for a grab-and-go snack, there are endless ways to incorporate them with other healthy ingredients day in and day out.

Here are sweet ideas we are enjoying this year:

Spinach and Strawberry Salad

Kids won't eat their spinach? Make a tasty salad with a light vinaigrette your kids make.

Get started by letting them grate the rind of a clean lemon into a small bowl, then cut the lemon in half and squeeze out all of the juice. Add 1 tablespoon rice vinegar and 1 teaspoon sugar. As one child drizzles 1/4 cup olive oil into the mixture, another child may whisk briskly.

Drizzle over a bowl of spinach, cubed fresh mango and strawberry slices. Add toasted almond slices, if you wish.

Strawberry Faux Fondue

Summertime is party time. For a simple do-it-yourself dessert at a large gathering, set a big bowl of strawberries in the center of a table, along with bamboo skewers and fondue-style sweets in small bowls for dipping. Before the party, let your kids fill the bowls with caramel, strawberry and fudge sauces, powdered sugar and brown sugar. To serve, tell guests to poke a berry onto a skewer and dip into a treat.

A Bowl of Berries

Chop fresh mint and add to a bowl of blueberries, raspberries and sliced strawberries as a fruit side dish at lunchtime. The combo also makes a nice dessert served with a favorite cookie.

Grilled Strawberries

Cut strawberries in half lengthwise and let your kids poke several onto bamboo skewers lengthwise. An adult should set the cut side of the berries on a grill for a minute, or until grill marks appear. Serve for dessert with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

■■■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

YOUR PLACE

Reader says Tang will remove dishwasher stain

By AL HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Let's start this column with advice from reader Sharon Garcia of St. Davids, Pa.:

"I just read the question posed by the person with the brown stain buildup everywhere in the dishwasher.

"I had this problem for many years, and discovered that the only thing that would make the brown go away was Tang drink mix in the soap dispenser. It will have to probably run a few times if it has a lot of buildup.

"I always ran it on hot without dishes when the buildup got bad. I also would open it during the rinse cycle and add some more.

"A cheaper solution, I later discovered, was any inexpensive instant lemonade powder. Just check the label and make sure the ingredients are the same, or similar to Tang. It must have something to do with the acidic component of citrus that breaks down the deposits on the walls.

"I no longer have this problem. When the dishwasher finally died, I replaced it with one that has a stainless steel interior. Got tired of dealing with it."

Q: "We have a bid to renovate a bathroom from a contractor we like and who comes recommended.

"He has said he can reduce the bid by $400 if we pay in cash. I was wondering if you have any thoughts on dos and don'ts when paying in cash. It is in the neighborhood of $10,000, so it is a lot of cash to carry around.

"I really just want to be aware of any pitfalls or 'gotchas,' and make sure I am protected in case of any dispute."

A: There are a couple of things working in your favor. The first is that you like the contractor; the second is that he comes recommended.

You need a contract in any case, whether you pay him in cash or not, and you should not give him all of it up front.

The best way is to agree contractually to release an agreed-upon amount periodically for work completed to your satisfaction, with the largest payment to come at the successful completion of all the work.

Make sure you get a receipt signed by him for the amount you provide. If he uses subcontractors and he wasn't on the up and up, he might tell them you didn't pay him and they could put a mechanic's lien on your house for the amount he owes them, or not finish the work.

I am wondering why he wants the money in cash, as I imagine you are. The cynical in the audience will suggest that he is trying to put something over on the government—federal, state or local—either in taxes or permits.

I doubt that you would be considered a party to this deception, especially if you have a contract stating that the payments were to be made in cash in return for $400 off, but I'm not a lawyer so I'm not providing legal advice—just my thoughts.

Again, contract, contract and, one more time, contract. If you are still feeling a bit on edge about this, have a lawyer look over the agreement you are negotiating with your contractor.

Yes, it's hot. Although most houses built in recent years have central air-conditioning and many older houses have been retrofitted, there are a lot of people out there sweltering in the summer heat.

From the folks at Emerson, here are some energy-efficient approaches to cooling.

■ Check the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating (SEER) of the unit. The higher the number, the more efficient the system—resulting in lower monthly energy bills. A SEER rating over 16 is great.

■ Check your refrigerant. If the label on your outside air conditioner says R-22, you're going to need to upgrade. R-22 is ozone depleting and has been phased out in favor of environmentally friendlier R-410A.

■ Is your outside compressor unit free of debris? Many times leaves and grass clippings can get stuck on the coils and restrict airflow. This causes the unit to work harder and ends up costing you more money.

■ Invest in a programmable thermostat. Why pay to cool the house when you aren't home? Programming the thermostat around your schedule can save hundreds of dollars a year.

■ Know the right questions to ask a contractor. Many apps are designed to help you choose the best system for your home so you don't over- or under-purchase.

Questions? E-mail Alan J. Heavens at aheavens@phillynews.com, or write him at The Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101. Volume prohibits individual replies.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Get Free HDTV With Outdoor Antenna

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I recently canceled my cable subscription in order to save money. While watching the news streamed on my computer is OK, I'd like to pick up local stations on my TV. How can I do that?—Chuck F., New Hampshire

A: Today's over-the-air TV transmissions are entirely digital, a change mandated by the government a couple of years back. The old "analog" TV transmissions were switched off in 2010, something that owners of old tube televisions who try to pick up signals with their old antennae are painfully aware of.

However, even with an older television, you can pick up line-of-sight transmissions and receive local television stations. Converter boxes are available at most large retailers that sell electronics and cost from $30 to $60. You can learn more at http://dtv.gov/consumercorner_4.html.

If you have a newer HD television, you might be able to pick up a few signals if the TV has a built-in digital antenna. If not, there are several HD antennas on the market. If you live in an area where TV signals are traditionally faint, you'll absolutely need one of these. They start at around $45 and go up in price, but the plus side is that you won't pay any more money for TV signals once the antenna is up. At least one brand of HD antenna was designed to be set up inside your home, but there are other brands specifically made to be set up outside or on the roof. Outdoor antennas can pick up signals up to 50 miles away in most cases, as long as there aren't too many obstructions like hills or other buildings between your home and the transmission source.

To set up an outdoor HD antenna, follow the instructions included with the product. Those made for rooftops should include proper mounting bolts and, ideally, small sealing squares (basically roof-patching squares) that sit between the antenna mount base and the roof. If those sealing squares aren't included, head to your home-improvement store for roof patches and cut them to fit.

You'll also need to feed the coaxial cable connecting the antenna back into the house to your television. If possible, try using the holes already drilled by the cable company to install its coax, rather than punch more holes in your home's envelope.

A number of videos on the web can provide more information on antenna installation. This video (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuYD9fQG_s) shows one homeowner's installation option, at the top of the eave. Another (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0WQtzMdo7I) provides details on properly positioning the antenna for an optimal signal, which is important in remote areas.

HOME TIP: If you have an existing dish or antenna mount on the roof, take note of how the mount base is set up. It can be a big help in setting up your HD antenna without causing a roof leak.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Catherine Vivian Flores DeLeon Guerrero

November 25, 1951-July 27, 2012
Lovingly known as "Cat" or "Tating"

was called by Our Almighty Father to eternal rest at the age of 60 years.

In her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: Francisco Duenas "Kabesa" and Maria Torres Flores
Brother: Felix Torres Flores
Grandson: Kyle Ray DeLeon Guerrero Basa
Brothers –in-law: George Untalan Diaz, Edward Mendiola Fleming
Parents-in-law: Joaquin Cabrera and Consolacion Iglesias Deleon Guerrero

Her love and peaceful spirit will live on in the hearts of her:
Husband: Crispin "Kuri" Iglesias DeLeon Guerrero
Children & Spouses: Francine DeAnna DLG. and Raymond N. Basa (Kathleen Renaysha, Kristin Rae); **Crispin "Ping"** F. DeLeon Guerrero, Jr.; **Marlena Colleen** DLG. and Ricky DLG. Ichihara (Relaina Myleen, Kyler Raymond); **Jack Curtis** F. DeLeon Guerrero; **Gina** V. and William LG. Salas (Steven Jude, William Joseph [William Jeremiah], Matthew James, Tara Joy)

Brothers, Sisters, and In-law: Frank "Sonny" T. and Annie DLG. Flores, Jr., & Family; Evelyn F. and +George U. Diaz & Family; John T. and Ladonna R. Flores & Family; Joseph T. and Alva DLC. Flores & Family; Margaret T. Flores & Family; Donald T. and Shirlina DLG. Flores & Family; Rosie F. and Juan L. Takai & Family

Brothers and Sisters-in-law: Alfredo I. and Remedios R. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Artemio I. and Mercedes SN. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Delfina DLG. and Mike Sherman & Family (Guam); Rosa DLG. and +Herman Pablo & Family (Guam); Rita O. and Antonio Rivera (San Diego, CA); Jose I. and Susana V. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Efrain I. and Hilda G. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Joaquin I. and +Rosita B. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Winnifreda DLG. and Felix Mendiola & Family (Rota); Lorenzo I. and Sinforosa V. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Begonia DLG. Cruz & Family; Antonio I. and Lourdes S. DeLeon Guerrero & Family; Jesus I. and Josepha C. Deleon Guerrero & Family; Juan I. and Viola S. DeLeon Guerrero & Family

Brother-in-laws & Sister-in-law: Blas T. Mafnas, Joseph Cruz & Antonia V. Reyes

She is additionally survived by numerous aunties, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, and godchildren.

Daily masses of intention are offered at 6:00 a.m. and nightly rosary at 7:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

On Saturday, August 4, 2012, at 7:30 a.m., our Beloved Catherine will be escorted from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., followed by interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You

THE FAMILY

Life & Style

Jackson says she was kept from communicating

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The mystery of Michael Jackson's mother's disappearance was clarified Thursday with the release of court papers that said she was kept from communicating with outsiders while at a resort and was unaware she had been reported missing.

Katherine Jackson declared in the documents that she learned she was the subject of a search when she accidentally heard a TV report.

Before that, she said, she was kept virtually incommunicado without access to a phone or her iPad. She said her stay at the Tucson resort was unplanned, and she went there after she was told her doctor had ordered her to rest.

Before that, she had intended to take a cross-country RV trip to see her sons perform in concerts.

"While there was a telephone in my room, the telephone was not functioning and I could not dial out," she said in the documents. "In addition, there was no picture on the television in my room."

She told of asking repeatedly to have the TV fixed.

"One morning I woke up to the sound of the television," she said. "While there was no picture, I heard a broadcast that stated I was missing."

Her declaration was attached to papers filed in a request to be reinstated as guardian of Michael's children, Prince, 15, Paris, 14 and Blanket, 10. Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff granted the request Thursday and temporarily named her nephew, TJ Jackson, as co-guardian.

AP

In this Nov. 29, 2011 photo, Michael Jackson's mother Katherine Jackson and brother Jermaine Jackson leave after the sentencing of Conrad Murray at the Los Angeles Criminal Justice Center.

Beckloff said last week that he didn't believe Katherine Jackson had done anything wrong but suspended her guardianship duties because she had been out of contact with her grandchildren for 10 days.

While at the resort, Jackson said, she was unaware that her grandchildren were worried about her and that her lawyer had flown to Tucson to contact her.

"While I was away, I had no reason to question whether the people with whom I placed trust would inform me that Prince, Paris and Blanket were trying to reach me," she said.

She said she had asked about the children and was told they were fine.

"The day before I was brought home from Tucson, I was finally permitted to use the phone to speak with Prince, Paris, Blanket and TJ," she said.

Some of Katherine Jackson's comments appeared in conflict with a statement she made to ABC News before she left Tucson.

Seated with her children Randy, Janet and Rebbie next to her, she read from a prepared statement saying she had not been held against her will

"My children would never do a thing to me like that, holding me against my will," she said. "It's very stupid for people to think that."

She said then that she was devastated at learning she had lost guardianship of her grandchildren and said the action "was based on a bunch of lies."

In the aftermath of what her attorney Perry Sanders Jr. called "the chaos," Katherine Jackson asked for a meeting with TJ Jackson and the lawyer to find out what was going on.

As a result, she said, she decided that TJ Jackson, who had been an unofficial co-guardian of the children, needed legal authority in case something happened in her absence.

Beckloff said during a hearing after Jackson resurfaced that an investigator who looked into the children's care found the late pop star's 82-year-old mother was an excellent guardian and the children love her.

"I think the kids are in terrific hands," the judge said. "It appears from the report that Katherine Jackson has done a wonderful job and cares about the children very much."

Beckloff noted that the children also have a close relationship with their 34-year-old cousin TJ Jackson, who was named temporary guardian last week after working closely with Katherine Jackson since Michael Jackson died.

TJ is "incredibly respectful" of the family matriarch and she is respectful of him, the judge said.

Beckloff said he will finalize the arrangement later this month but for now will issue letters of co-guardianship allowing both Jacksons to make decisions about the welfare of the children.

TJ Jackson's new co-guardianship status is temporary, but the judge could make it permanent when he convenes the next court hearing on Aug. 22.

The shared guardianship plan is apparently designed to remove pressure from Katherine Jackson who was previously named in her son's will as the children's sole guardian.

Sanders has said the arrangement will allow her to focus on the children's upbringing and not on home or logistics issues.

The changes in guardianship come on the heels of family dissension over Michael Jackson's will, which left nothing to his siblings when he died three years ago. Several of them signed a letter that was leaked to the media alleging the will was a fake and calling on executors of the estate to resign.

On Wednesday, Jermaine Jackson issued a plea for peace in the family and withdrew his support of the letter.

He wrote that the family is still raw from Michael Jackson's death, and his mother has endured incredible stress and pressures since then.

5 most memorable Marilyn Monroe performances

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There is the well-honed Marilyn Monroe screen persona—the breathy, girlish voice, the glamorous curves and the flirty sex appeal—and then there are the films that allowed her to stretch, or at least allowed her to try. A devout Method actress, Monroe took her craft seriously, dug deep in search of motivation and worked harder than her effortless screen presence would suggest. For a while, that is, until her demons took over.

On the 50th anniversary of her death, here's a look at five of her most memorable film performances, the ones that stand out over her prolific but sadly short career:

■ "Some Like It Hot" (1959): This was the first title that came to mind when I began pondering this list. Maybe because it's the best film she was ever in—the Billy Wilder classic is listed as the greatest comedy ever by the American Film Institute—but also, the role of Sugar Kane Kowalczyk is just so quintessentially "her." Monroe is totally magnetic, with innocence and sexuality in equal measure. As the lead singer of an all-girl orchestra, she gets to sing, dance, play the ukulele and show off her comic timing. Monroe finds a tricky balance between her otherworldly looks and a down-to earth charm, and plays beautifully off Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis.

■ "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (1953): Describing her performance as gold-digging Lorelei Lee as iconic would not be hyperbole. Her rendition of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" remains so enduring, it inspired Madonna's "Material Girl" video, down to the blonde waves, candy-colored pink dress, admiring back-up dancers and tightly structured choreography. Monroe actually gets second billing behind Jane Russell in Howard Hawks' musical comedy, based on the Broadway show about a couple of showgirls and best friends who travel to Paris, run into misadventures and revel in all the attention thrown their way.

■ "The Seven Year Itch" (1955): Here's Monroe again at the center of one of film's most famous images: standing over a New York City subway grate, letting the wind from a passing train send her ivory, pleated halter dress billowing all around her. (The dress itself sold at auction last year for a whopping $5.6 million, including commission.) But the whole performance is a great example of her screen presence in a nutshell: naive, sweet, beguiling and irresistible. She's such an idealized incarnation of classic female allure, she's known only as The Girl. Working for the first time with Wilder (who famously had difficulty with her), based on the George Axelrod play, Monroe plays the sexy upstairs neighbor who bewitches Tom Ewell's character while his family is away for the summer.

AP

In this 1959 file photo provided by United Artists, Tony Curtis, left, and Marilyn Monroe are shown in the hilarious, milestone comedy, "Some Like It Hot," produced, directed, and co-scripted by Billy Wilder.

■ "Bus Stop" (1956): A rare opportunity for Monroe to show some dramatic ability. But really, everything she can do is on display here: Joshua Logan's film, based on the William Inge play, offers the full range of Monroe's abilities. She stars as Cherie—that's pronounced "Sher-EE," not "Cherry "- a lousy saloon singer toiling away in Phoenix until she can find a way to get to Hollywood. Yes, her Arkansas accent grates—and if we're being honest, the way overzealous cowboy Don Murray carries her off and forces her into an engagement would merit a restraining order now. But Monroe also gets some quieter moments that reveal her vulnerability.

■ "The Misfits" (1961): A poignant pop culture time capsule: This is not just Monroe's final film but Clark Gable's, too. Co-star Montgomery Clift would be dead a few years later. Monroe's then-husband, playwright Arthur Miller, wrote the script for her to give her a meatier role. But by all accounts, alcohol and pills made her an absolute mess and she was frequently late to John Huston's set. Given that her newly divorced character is drunk most of the time, along with the lost souls with whom she seeks solace in the Nevada desert, it's hard to tell where the performance ends and real life begins. In an eerily ironic quote from Eli Wallach as he's toasting Monroe's character for her vitality, he says: "Here's to your life, Roslyn. I hope it goes on forever."

Paisley, Underwood to host CMAs for 5th time

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley are hosting the Country Music Association Awards for a fifth time.

Underwood started the online buzz about their return with a tweet Wednesday, saying she was hanging out with Paisley. She joked that she caught him in her makeup chair and added the hash tag (hash)suchadiva.

CMA confirmed the news on Twitter and Facebook shortly after with a picture of the two stars during a photo shoot.

The CMA Awards will air live Thursday, Nov. 1, on ABC from Nashville.

This Nov. 9, 2011 file photo shows hosts Brad Paisley, left, and Carrie Underwood speak during the 45th Annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

AP

CBS going forward with 'Glass House' lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CBS still wants to evict "The Glass House" from the airwaves.

The network moved ahead with its lawsuit against ABC this week by amending its filing that alleges ABC copied elements of "Big Brother" for its new reality TV competition series "The Glass House."

CBS attorneys added several more objections to the show now that ABC has aired several episodes, arguing that "'Glass House' employs the same plot, themes, mood, setting, pace, characters, dialogue, sequence of events and other concrete elements making up `Big Brother.'"

CBS originally sought to stop "Glass House" from premiering in June, but a federal judge refused. U.S. District Judge Gary Feess agreed with ABC attorneys who argued that many of the filming techniques employed on "Glass House" are not unique to "Big Brother" and are used in other reality TV shows.

Both shows employ dozens of cameras to monitor a houseful of contestants vying for a cash prize, but Feess ruled the shows are likely to play out very differently.

Among the similarities that CBS added to its lawsuit this week were that both shows feature an "obligatory older" and "openly gay" player, "showmances" as a plot element and "generally comfortable, cloistered house" environments.

AP

This June 18, 2012 file photo released by ABC shows contestants Apollo, left, and Jeffrey during the premiere episode of "The Glass House." The seventh episode of "Glass House" aired Monday, July 30, 2012.

CBS says "Glass House" violates copyrights and trade secrets from "Big Brother" and alleges that dozens of former "Big Brother" staffers and producers now working with ABC on "Glass House" may have violated non-disclosure agreements.

The seventh episode of "Glass House" aired Monday on ABC.

The 14th season of "Big Brother" is currently airing three nights a week on CBS.

A spokesman for ABC said the network has no comment about the updated lawsuit.

ABC lawyers previously said "Glass House" is different because many of the contestants' decisions, and who remains in the house, are made by audience votes. Only the first season of "Big Brother" allowed viewers to choose which houseguest was evicted.

Alaina cancels weekend gigs for vocal rest

NEW YORK (AP)—Lauren Alaina (uh-LAY'-nuh) is canceling her shows this weekend because of vocal issues.

Alaina said in a statement Thursday that her doctor is putting her on "vocal rest." She was set to open for country duo Sugarland on Friday in Cincinnati, Ohio, and on Saturday in Clarkston, Mich. The statement provided no other specifics about the condition of her voice.

Alaina was the runner-up on "American Idol" last year. For the show's finale, she blew out one of her vocal cords during rehearsals.

The 17-year-old said she is "sad" to miss the shows this weekend and is sorry to disappoint her fans. She said she would make it up to them and would be "back soon."

Live Nation said singer Vonda Shepard will fill in for Alaina.

AP

This May 18, 2012 file photo shows singer La Toya Jackson arriving at the 19th Annual Race to Erase MS Gala in Los Angeles, Calif.

La Toya Jackson to get a reality show on OWN

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey has tapped La Toya Jackson to star in her own reality show.

"Life with La Toya" is described as a "candid look" inside Jackson's life as she juggles family, friends and business. It will air next year on Winfrey's TV network, OWN.

La Toya is one of Katherine and Joe Jackson's nine children and was Michael's sister.

She isn't the first Jackson to get a reality show. "The Jacksons: A Family Dynasty" aired for six episodes on A&E. It followed Jermaine, Jackie, Marlon and Tito Jackson.

La Toya also competed last year on "Celebrity Apprentice."

On Thursday, OWN also announced a slate of celebrities sitting down with Winfrey for upcoming episodes of "Oprah's Next Chapter." They include Stephen Colbert, Bette Midler, Jennifer Hudson and Kelsey Grammer.

Diary opens door to dialogue between mother and daughter

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 16-year-old girl who accidentally left my diary on the counter and my mother read it. When she told me, I was disappointed and hurt. To me, a diary is a place I can escape to and feel comfortable just being me. She now knows I struggle with depression and have done things I'm not proud of. I was angry and expected an apology because it was a violation of my privacy.

She claims she had the right to read it because I left it on the counter, and if I didn't want her to see it, I shouldn't have left it there. Regardless of where my diary was, I don't feel she had the right to go through it because it's not hers.

I told her I want an apology and I am willing to rebuild that trust. My mom said there is no reason to rebuild it or to apologize, and she did nothing wrong. Am I wrong for wanting an apology and a better explanation for why she did it?

DISAPPOINTED DAUGHTER

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: Your mother read your diary because it was out in the open and she was curious. Does she owe you an apology? Perhaps. However, if her level of communication with you is so poor that you live under the same roof and she hasn't noticed your struggle with depression—whether situational or chronic—and offered to help you find help for it, then what happened may have been a blessing. What you need with her is a closer relationship, not a combative one. Her job as a parent is to help you, and that includes teaching you to make the right choices.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A bridal tea is being held for my niece soon. The invitation says, "Hats and dresses, please." I was also told verbally by the mother of the bride (my sister) that they want everyone attending to wear hats. I told her I'm very uncomfortable wearing a hat, but would put flowers in my hair to "jazz it up" a bit.

Last night, my brother-in-law called asking what I was wearing to the tea. My first reaction was that he was joking—so I asked if he thought that it was even worth a conversation. He said if I don't wear a dress and hat, to not bother coming. I was so shocked that I said OK and hung up.

I am very sad that I would not be welcomed without the hat—something so superficial. If appearances are more important than having me there, then I really don't want to attend. I would, however, send a note and gift and also attend the regular shower being planned if invited. I don't want to alienate the family.

How do you think I should handle this? I am lost for words—although you wouldn't know it by my rambling on. Thanks for your advice.

RAMBLING AUNTIE

DEAR RAMBLING AUNTIE: Obviously, your sister and her daughter are more concerned with the fantasy of how things will look at this tea than the feelings of those who will attend. People like that are easily offended/alienated and carry grudges.

Because you don't want to cause a rift, buy a cheap hat and go to the tea. While sending a note and gift in lieu of attending is more than what most people would do under the circumstances—and I don't blame you for considering it—to keep peace in the family, put in an appearance.

P.S. With relatives like this, you have my sympathy.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband thinks I'm addicted to your column. What should I do?

"AB"DICTED TO YOU

DEAR "AB"DICTED: While I wouldn't ordinarily encourage any kind of addiction, I'm making an exception in your case. Continue reading my column and encourage your husband to read occasional letters until he becomes "Ab"-co-dependent. When it comes to enlarging my readership, the more the merrier!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

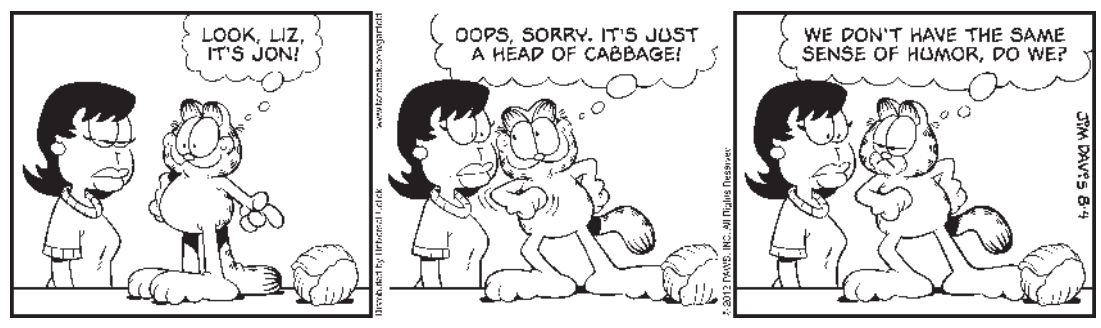
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



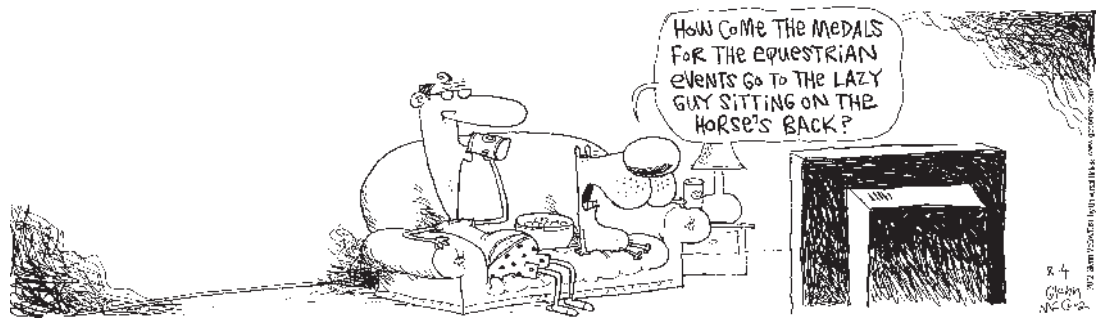
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CAN I HELP YOU?
UHH.YES...WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR USED TEETH?
I PUT THEM IN A GLASS NEXT TO MY BED.
I MEAN, WHAT DOES THE DENTIST DO WITH THEM?
HE DISPOSES OF THEM AS REQUIRED BY LAW.
OH. OKAY.
EVERY MONTH SOME YOUNG PUNK COMES IN HERE TRYING TO MUSCLE IN ON MY TOOTH FAIRY MONEY. NO WAY, JOSE.
TYPE TYPE

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

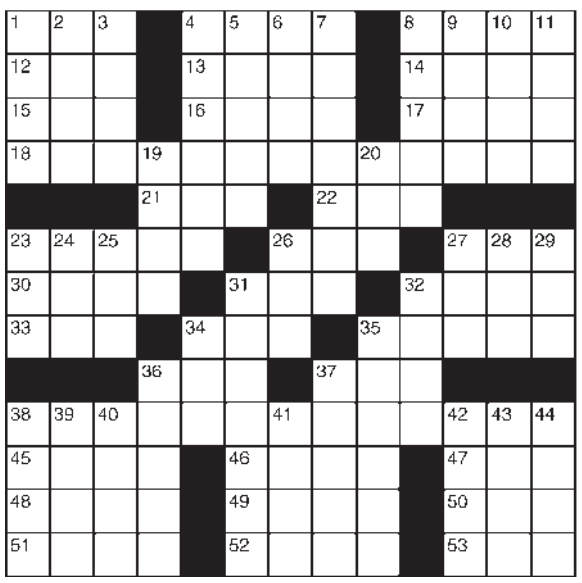
ACROSS
1 Dinner for Dobbin
4 Anger
8 Old portico
12 Anger
13 Stench
14 Seafood selection
15 Healthy
16 Withered
17 Ceremony
18 1939 Shearer/Gable movie
21 Last (Abbr.)
22 Hurry along
23 Succulent
26 Lair
27 Shrill bark
30 Pruritic feeling
31 Mongrel
32 Points of concentration
33 Spelldown
34 Cranberry territory
35 GPS offering
36 Total
37 Pair
38 Delusory happiness
45 "M*A*S*H" star
46 Bank transaction
47 Bear hair
48 Property claim
49 Oklahoma city
50 To and —
51 Missing
52 TV's warrior princess
53 "Absolutely"

DOWN
1 Stereo setup
2 Saharan
3 Bigfoot's cousin
4 Pretty much
5 That is (Lat.)
6 Han Solo portrayer
7 Refrigerator section
8 Temporary money
9 Advanced math
10 Solemn promise
11 Drive the getaway car, maybe
19 "That hurts!"
20 Jeremy of the NBA
23 Triangular sail
24 Multipurpose truck
25 Lemieux milieu
26 Shoveled
27 Second person
28 Performance
29 Slapstick missile
31 Intricate
32 Comestibles
34 Clear the tables
35 Kigali's land
36 Point of view
37 Teach by repetition
38 Plummet
39 A little of everything
40 Rhyming tributes
41 Top-notch
42 Uncertain
43 Certain
44 Cupid's alias

Solution time: 27 mins.

O	P	S	■	C	A	B	■	S	L	O	S	H
P	E	A	■	A	P	E	■	P	A	R	K	A
T	R	Y	■	V	E	R	D	I	G	R	I	S
I	T	S	■	E	X	E	R	T	■	■	■	■
C	H	O	W	■	E	T	A	■	L	U	B	E
■	■	■	A	M	S	■	G	R	I	S	L	Y
A	I	S	L	E	■	■	■	A	G	A	T	E
G	R	I	S	T	S	■	M	P	H	■	■	■
E	A	C	H	■	L	O	O	■	T	R	E	Y
■	■	■	■	B	U	G	L	E	■	E	M	U
A	M	B	E	R	G	R	I	S	■	C	A	M
G	A	U	G	E	■	E	N	S	■	A	I	M
O	X	B	O	W	■	S	E	E	■	P	L	Y

Yesterday's answer 8-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kurt Busch, 34; Jeff Gordon, 41; Daniel Dae Kim, 44; Billy Bob Thornton, 57.

Happy Birthday: Be careful what you wish for; you may take on more than you anticipated. Step back and make sure you've covered all your options before you jump into something that could cost you emotionally or financially. Focus on what you have to offer and how you can get the most in return. Your numbers are 7, 12, 18, 24, 26, 38, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Secretiveness and deception will create emotional unrest. An open, honest approach to the way you feel and what you want will help you make decisions and allow you to develop long-lasting relationships. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): What you offer must be easily doable or you will have to pay someone to help you live up to the commitment you made. Too much of anything will leave you feeling uncertain and looking for an excuse to decline. Reassess your position. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Improving your surroundings will curb your restlessness and impulsiveness. A trusted friend will help you detect ulterior motives or deception encountered during negotiations. Consider the emotional cost before accepting an offer. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Serious thoughts will bring great results. Touch base with someone who motivates and inspires you. Dive into something you enjoy doing. A new hobby, or developing a skill you already have, will bring you great joy and new acquaintances. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep your wallet in your pocket. You don't have to pick up the tab in order to impress. You are best to show your ability to be money-smart. A deal you come across will be laced with ulterior motives and deception. Think twice. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make necessary changes to your personal papers, legal documents and investments. Consider future careers that interest you. Someone you thought you knew will have a change of attitude. Rethink your strategy before agreeing to an offer. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Organize activities that will allow you to entertain, impress and meet people who can help you get ahead. Traveling, socializing and participating will introduce you to new pastimes and interesting people. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Concentrate on creating a comfortable place to spend quality time. Helping someone is fine, but be smart; offer advice, not cash. A surge of creativity will help you get more done as well as help you find other outlets for your services. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Think before you speak. Separating your personal and professional feelings will be difficult. Disappointment can be expected when dealing with family or friends. Misinformation is likely to result in poor choices or lead you in the wrong direction. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Voice your opinion and look at existing possibilities, but don't commit without having all the facts. Don't limit what you can do or let anyone else stand in your way. Assess what you want and pursue your dream. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make your place more conducive to the things you enjoy doing most. Shopping will lead to some great buys. Share your enthusiasm and you will attract affectionate attention. Pursue information that can benefit you, your home and your family life. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Listen to good advice. You must take an honest look at your situation before making adjustments. Expecting others to conform to what you want will lead to emotional discord. A partnership will suffer if equality isn't maintained. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer. You are social, creative and eager to please.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	5 7			9	6			2
				4	7			
8		1		2		5 2	3	6
	2	5		1				
			8	5				
			1				7	8
6				7			9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	5	4	2	7	1	3	9	8
8	7	2	4	9	3	1	5	6
3	9	1	6	5	8	4	7	2
9	1	6	3	2	4	5	8	7
7	4	5	9	8	6	2	3	1
2	8	3	7	1	5	9	6	4
4	3	7	1	6	9	8	2	5
1	6	8	5	3	2	7	4	9
5	2	9	8	4	7	6	1	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TWIN PEAKS FESTIVAL Solution: 9 letters

L	T	R	I	H	S	R	E	Z	I	N	A	G	R	O
I	F	I	R	E	T	T	O	L	R	A	H	C	T	E
B	H	S	N	O	Q	U	A	L	M	I	E	C	S	D
R	U	A	D	N	A	M	A	F	C	R	M	T	E	I
A	N	S	N	Y	M	M	I	K	O	I	E	G	T	V
R	T	S	E	U	G	L	S	B	C	W	N	R	A	R
Y	N	N	B	S	M	T	E	H	A	A	I	L	N	E
E	I	R	H	L	O	R	A	R	R	V	L	H	D	G
P	G	E	T	U	T	E	T	G	I	E	O	E	E	N
I	H	F	R	S	L	E	T	A	Y	T	R	Ⓚ	R	E
C	T	I	O	F	A	L	L	B	E	A	F	Ⓛ	S	V
N	S	N	N	N	L	Y	E	L	J	K	R	Ⓐ	O	A
I	O	N	N	I	N	O	S	I	G	N	I	Ⓦ	N	C
C	R	E	M	C	I	N	Y	L	I	R	E	H	S	S
T	F	J	H	A	L	L	L	E	W	E	R	A	F	Y

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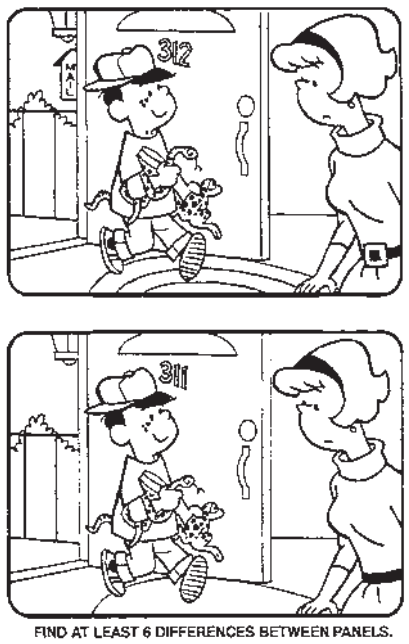
Amanda, Anderson, Buses, Charlotte, Fall, Fans, Farewell, Fenn, Film, Fire, Frost, Grange, Guest, Hall, Hicks, Hike, Hotels, Hunt, Jared, Jennifer, Kimmy, Library, Lynch, Lyon, Michael, Mill, Night, Northbend, Organizers, Picnic, Pine, Robertson, Scavenger, Seattle, Sherilyn, Shirt, Sign, Snoqualmie, Stewart, Test, Tour, Trivia, Valley, Video, Walk

Yesterday's Answer: The Block

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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Wishing Well®

7	3	2	4	2	6	8	2	8	5	2	5	7
B	A	R	B	E	C	L	L	E	M	I	O	E
3	2	7	6	2	8	3	4	2	4	7	3	5
M	S	P	O	H	A	B	E	Y	O	R	I	D
8	2	7	3	5	8	6	2	5	2	6	8	3
R	O	E	T	E	N	L	U	R	R	L	N	I
2	5	2	4	5	7	4	7	2	8	6	3	6
S	A	U	B	T	P	J	A	C	E	E	O	G
8	6	8	2	8	2	7	2	6	7	2	6	5
W	E	S	C	K	E	R	S	B	E	S	O	E
8	3	5	4	6	5	6	4	8	6	8	7	3
I	N	D	E	U	E	N	C	L	D	L	D	H
8	3	5	3	5	3	4	5	4	5	4	5	4
S	I	S	G	I	H	T	R	I	E	V	S	E

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Super Crossword

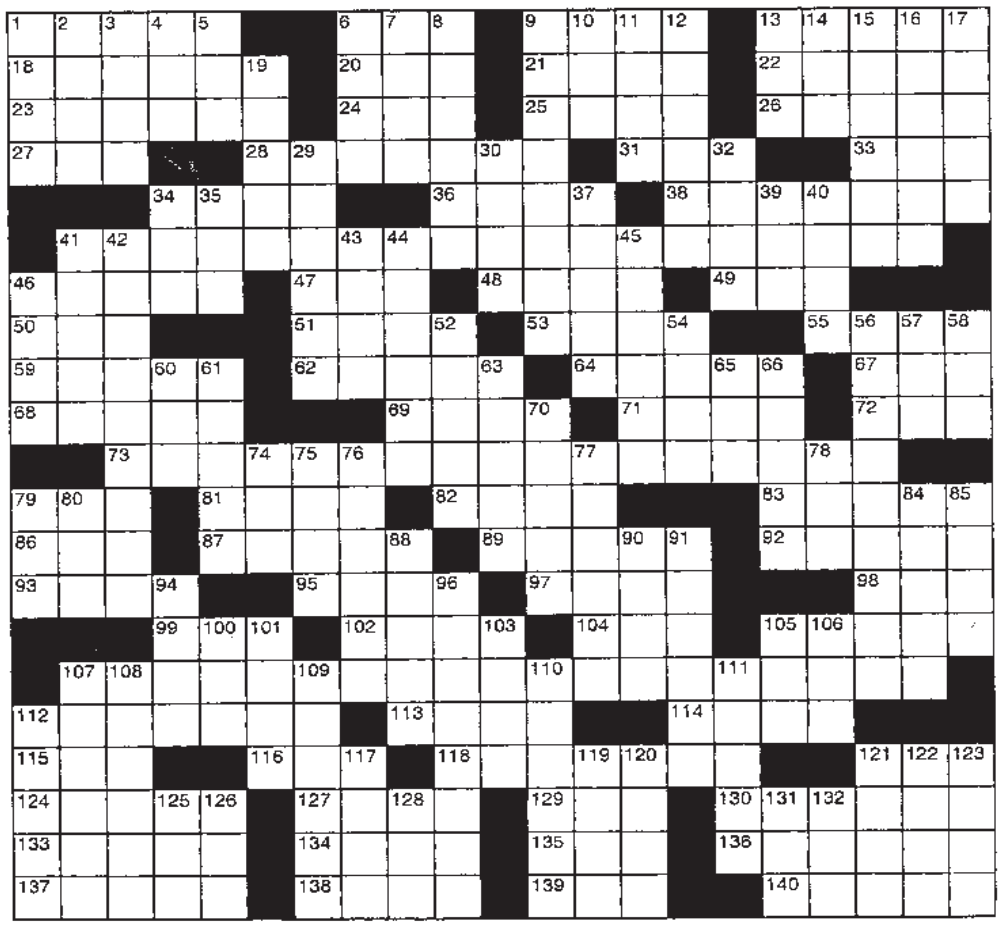
ILL HUMOR

ACROSS

1 Monty Python's Michael
6 Deli choice
9 Gear teeth
13 Film pterodactyl
18 Porthos' pal
20 Team scream
21 Well-ventilated
22 Felony
23 Start of a remark
24 Funnyman Philips
25 Deep purple
26 Confused
27 Faux —
28 Vince of "Ben Casey"
31 Small shots
33 PC key
34 "Rosanna" rockers
36 Couple
38 Part of HOMES
41 Part 2 of remark
46 Minnesota city
47 Alias initials
48 Heavy metal instrument?
49 Child welfare org.
50 Mil. unit
51 Say it isn't so
53 Labyrinth
55 Relax
59 Gentle as —
62 Abhorrence
64 A Barbary State
67 "Norma —" ('79 film)
68 Buccaneers' headquarters
69 Actress Ione
71 Football's Swann
72 Woodsman's tool
73 Part 3 of remark
79 — Mahal
81 Alley Oop's love
82 Out-of-this-world org.
83 Invasions
86 President Bush was one
87 Overturn
89 Macho type
92 Roast host
93 Circus sight
95 Teri of "Tootsie"
97 — majesty
98 Canterbury quaff
99 Hoagy
102 Wordsworth work
104 ABA member
105 Teach on the side
107 Part 4 of remark
112 Deprive (of)
113 Wooden strip
114 Olympic event
115 Flight
116 Tasty tuber
118 Proposition
121 Carol opener
124 Inevitable activity
127 Hungarian sheepdog
129 Shaq's pack
130 End of remark
133 Daybreak
134 Toast topper
135 Perlman or Palillo
136 Bostonian, for one
137 "The Brandon — Story" ('98 film)
138 So. state
139 Still
140 Self-confidence

DOWN

1 Theatrical Joseph
2 District
3 Neighbor of Thailand
4 Mischief-maker
5 Zilch
6 Make coffee
7 "Rama — Ding Dong" ('61 tune)
8 Legendary athlete Jim
9 Pepper
10 Vinegar's partner
11 Chow
12 Token
13 JVC competitor
14 Terrier's tidbit
15 Win over
16 Audrey Tautou role
17 Peachy-keen
19 Take care of
29 El —, AR
30 Tapered seam
32 Cut a cuticle
34 Decimal base
35 Two — kind
37 Morocco's capital
39 Cable channel
40 Thickening agent
41 Writer Rogers St. Johns
42 Thingumbob
43 Got by, with "out"
44 Disappear
45 Lapis —
46 Part of Q.E.D.
52 Canadian territory
54 "Only Time" singer
56 Destroy
57 Getz's instrument
58 Fairway accessory
60 Speedometer abbr.
61 "Blue —" ('77 hit)
63 Blabby bird
65 Business abbr.
66 — drum
70 One of the Fords
74 Weasel word?
75 First name in fashion
76 Finger food
77 Composer Jean-Philippe
78 "Platoon" setting
79 Gumshoe
80 Chicken — king
84 Apollo's isle
85 Soothsayer
88 Witty
90 Vino center
91 Irritate
94 Punta del —
96 Link
100 Actress Thurman
101 Bunch of birds
103 "Pyramus and Thisbe," e.g.
105 Playground game
106 Luau instrument
107 Confederation
108 January stoat
109 Earl Grey's place
110 William Sydney Porter
111 Man of the cloth?
112 Great time
117 Stubborn sort
119 Hautboy
120 Be bombastic
121 "Kon- —"
122 Summertime treats
123 — -Ball
125 "Sister Act" extra
126 Scholastic abbr.
128 Deighton or Dawson
131 "The Bells" monogram
132 — -Cat



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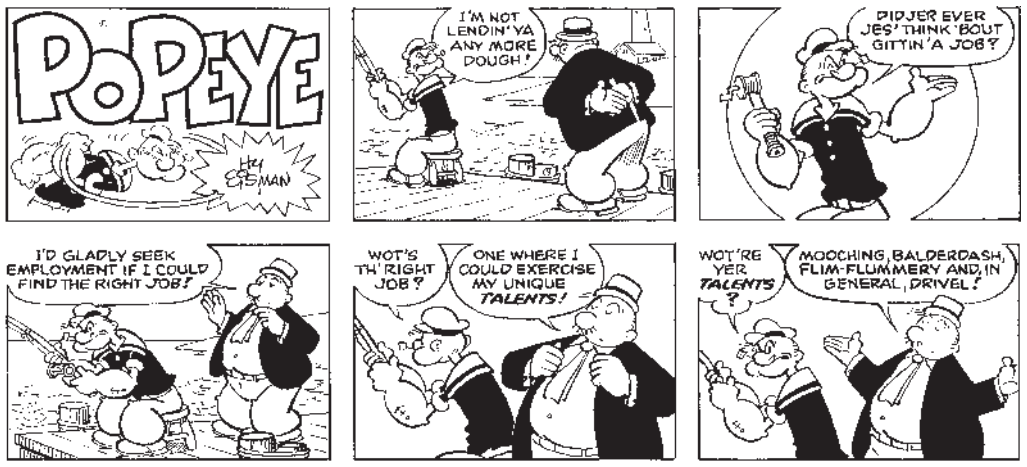
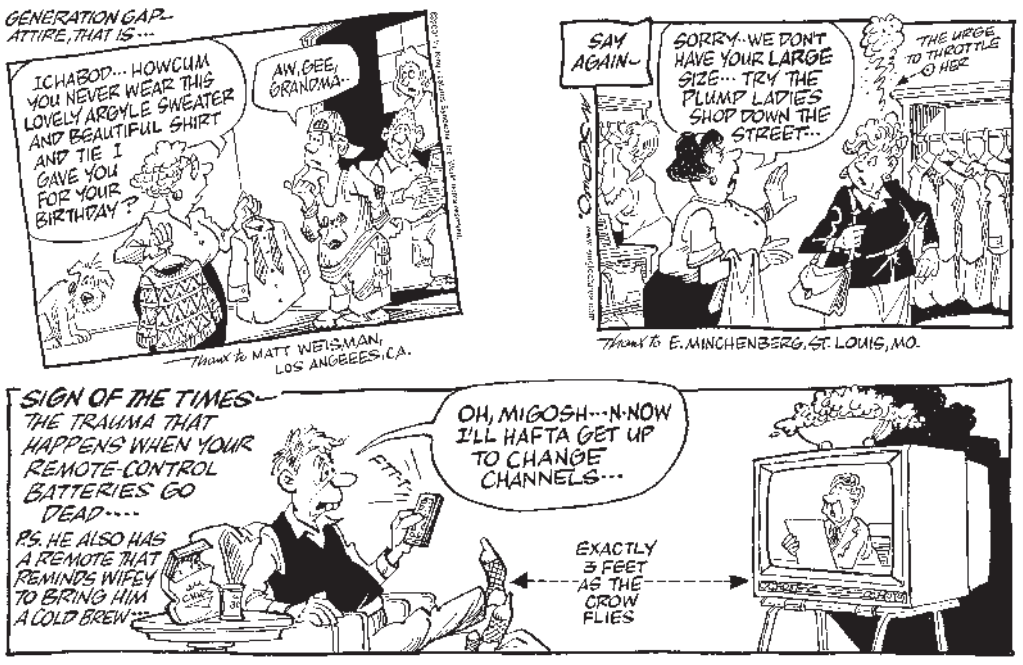
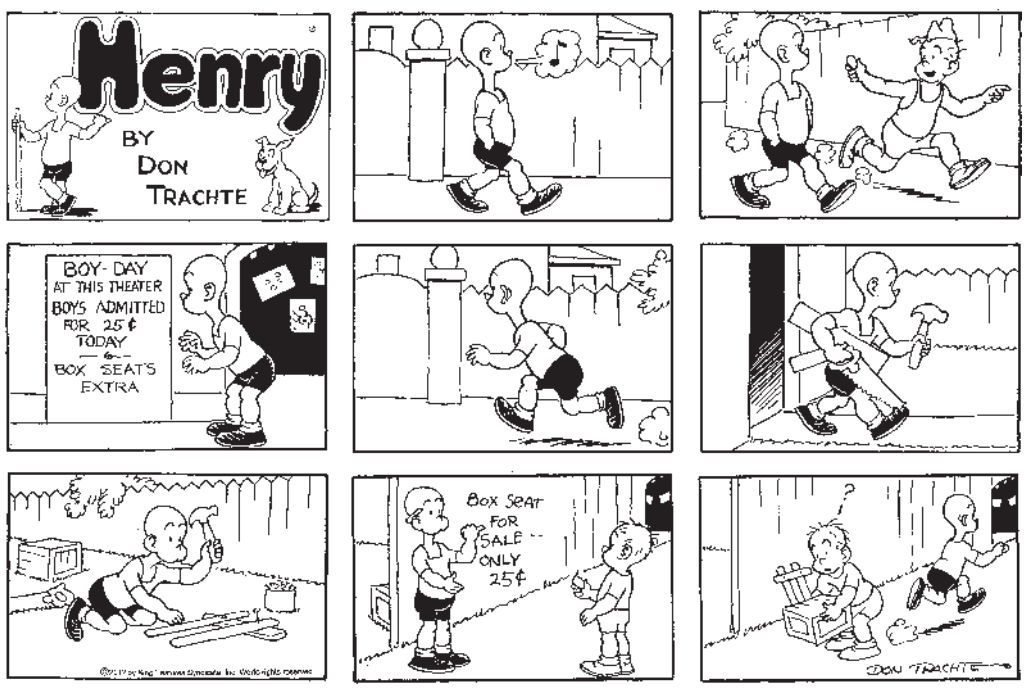

POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
I'M NOT LENDIN' YA ANY MORE DOUGH!
DIDJER EVER JES' THINK 'BOUT GITTIN' A JOB?
I'D GLADLY SEEK EMPLOYMENT IF I COULD FIND THE RIGHT JOB!
WOT'S TH' RIGHT JOB?
ONE WHERE I COULD EXERCISE MY UNIQUE TALENTS!
WOT'RE YER TALENTS?
MOOCHING, BALDERDASH, FLIM-FLUMMERY AND, IN GENERAL, DRIVEL!
NOT TO MENTION WINE, WOMEN AND SONG!
D'YA HAS ANY IDEAR WHERE A JOB LIKE THAT EXISKS?
I DO...
BUT YOU NEED MONEY TO RUN FOR CONGRESS!
EISMAN

They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto


GENERATION GAP-ATTIRE, THAT IS...
ICHABOD... HOWCUM YOU NEVER WEAR THIS LOVELY ARGYLE SWEATER AND BEAUTIFUL SHIRT AND TIE I GAVE YOU FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY?
AW, GEE, GRANDMA..
Thanx to MATT WEISMAN, LOS ANGEEES, CA.
SAY AGAIN~
SORRY.. WE DON'T HAVE YOUR LARGE SIZE... TRY THE PLUMP LADIES SHOP DOWN THE STREET...
THE URGE TO THROTTLE HER
M. SEDUCO
Thanx to E. MINCHENBERG, ST. LOUIS, MO.
SIGN OF THE TIMES~
THE TRAUMA THAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR REMOTE-CONTROL BATTERIES GO DEAD....
P.S. HE ALSO HAS A REMOTE THAT REMINDS WIFEY TO BRING HIM A COLD BREW...
OH, MIGOSH... N-NOW I'LL HAFTA GET UP TO CHANGE CHANNELS...
EXACTLY 3 FEET AS THE CROW FLIES


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
BOY- DAY AT THIS THEATER BOYS ADMITTED FOR 25¢ TODAY
BOX SEAT'S EXTRA
BOX SEAT FOR SALE ONLY 25¢
DON TRACHTE

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "crypto" mean?
2. MEASUREMENTS: If the outside temperature is 10 degrees on the Celsius scale, what temperature is it on the Fahrenheit scale?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: The Julian calendar was named for whom?
4. ASTRONOMY: What is perihelion?
5. CHEMISTRY: What is the symbol for the element magnesium?
6. LAW: Legally speaking, what does a testament do?
7. GEOGRAPHY: What modern-day country is in an area known in ancient times as Lusitania?
8. MEDICINE: What disease is caused by deficiency of vitamin A?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Swiss Family Robinson"?
10. MATH: What does the symbol "r" stand for in geometry?

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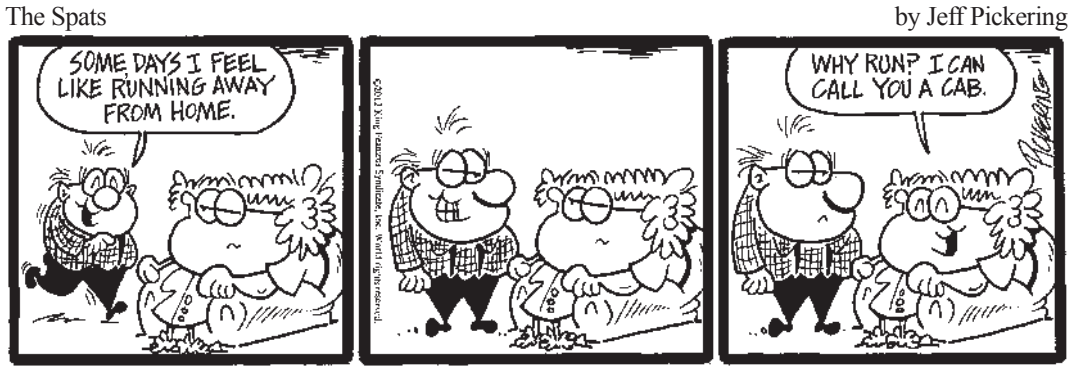
Answers

1. Hidden
2. 50 degrees F
3. Julius Caesar
4. Point in orbit where an object is closest to the Sun
5. Mg
6. Indicates how a person's personal property should be distributed
7. Portugal
8. Night blindness
9. Johann David Wyss
10. Radius of a circle

Saturday's Answers

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Email: henie@hardrocksaipan.com • Fax: (670) 233-7624

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Saipan

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Position **(1)** **GUEST SERVICES AGENT**
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer service , preferably in hotel operations. Guest services agent is responsible for providing guests fast , friendly and efficient service. Must have knowledge in Microsoft Office Applications and Fidelio system. Must have outstanding ability to perform several tasks at once. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends , nights and holidays. Must have fluency in English and Chinese language.

Position **(4)** **WAITRESS**
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with minimum of 2 years work experience preferably in hotel operations. Good customer service , communications and interpersonal skills are required. Ability to work a variable schedule on occasion , including early mornings , evenings and/ or weekends. Must have fluency in English and Chinese language.

Position **(1)** **SALES ASSOCIATE**
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years work experience in cashiering and previous retail experience preferred. Able to perform duties with minimal supervision. Must be able to work irregular hours, such as shifts , holidays and weekends. Requires standing and frequent walking while on duty. Must have fluency in English and Chinese language.

Applications can be obtained from Kanoa Resort's security office located on the Hotel's Backside. To be considered , applications must be submitted not later than August 09, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort, is located next to Saipan World Resort Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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WANTED TO BUY

We're buying '95 & Up used cars! Transaction only within 30 mins. Call 287-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio.

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

SANDY BEACH HOMES Energy efficient 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695. 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Phelps back on top; US-Jamaica track duel starts

AP

United States' Michael Phelps competes in a men's 100-meter butterfly swimming semifinal at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012.

LONDON (AP)—Michael Phelps spent the day thinking about all the things he's doing for the final time at the pool. It turns out that included one last win over Ryan Lochte.

Phelps finally got a gold all his own at his final Olympics.

Adding to an already unprecedented medal collection, he claimed his first individual victory of the London Games and handed Lochte a double disappointment on his rival's final night in the pool Thursday.

Phelps set the tone right from the start with a dominating butterfly leg to become the first male swimmer to win the same individual event at three straight Olympics in the 200-meter individual medley. He claimed his 20th career medal - and 16th gold - in 1 minute, 54.27 seconds, just off his winning time in Beijing but still good enough for gold, ahead of Lochte.

When it was done, there wasn't that water-pounding celebration we've seen so many times from Phelps - just a slight smile as he hung on the lane rope, gazing up at the stands and soaking it all in.

"Going into every call room, I said it's my last semifinal or my last prelim," Phelps said, reflecting on a busy day that included a morning swim, then two more races in the evening. "We're kind of chalking up all the lasts of certain things."

As he powered to the wall, his mom Debbie screamed, "Go! Go! Go!" When Phelps touched first, she dropped her head, kissed her two daughters - both former swimmers - and let the tears flow.

When Phelps stepped on the medal podium - yep, that familiar top rung - his eyes were glassy and he whispered a joke to Lochte, trying to keep the moment light. Then, staring up at the U.S. flag while the national anthem played, Phelps bit his lip and seemed to be struggling to hold back his own tears.

"Once it's all over, it's going to really hit me emotionally," he said. "I know for my mom it's very emotional. I'm the last Phelps to come through. She's watched my sisters go through the sport and retire."

Phelps has never been too revealing with his emotions away from the pool.

But, with just two days to go in his swimming career, there's a definite chink in the facade.

He's starting to look as human out of the water as he seems superhuman in it.

"To be able to win the gold medal and be the first to threepeat, it means something," said Phelps, whose first gold in London was swimming the anchor on the 4x200 freestyle relay. "It's pretty special and something that I'm very happy for."

So a farewell games that started as a bit of a disappointment is definitely looking up. He's now won two golds and two silvers in five races - not the eight golds in China, but a more-than-fitting capper to a brilliant career that still has two more races to go: the 100 butterfly Friday and the 4x100 medley relay Saturday

Lochte settled for silver in 1:54.90, having split with Phelps in their two head-to-head races in London. Hungary's Laszlo Cseh took the bronze, well behind the Americans in 1:56.22.

Meanwhile, the only way for the United States to turn the Olympic sprints into a real rivalry with Jamaica is to start winning every now and then.

When the women begin the 100-meter heats Friday, the Americans might find that's easier said than done.

Lining up for Jamaica will be 2008 gold medalist Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, silver medalist Kerron Stewart and Veronica Campbell-Brown, who has five Olympic medals but wasn't fast enough to qualify for the 100 in Beijing.

And the U.S.?

Well, there's 100 world champion Carmelita Jeter, but she's joined by a converted long jumper, Tianna Madison. And there's Allyson Felix, who readily admits the 100 is little more than a warmup for her "real" event, the 200.

"We do enjoy racing against each other," Campbell-Brown said.

The Jamaicans really do. They keep outdoing the Americans. There was Jamaica's three-medal haul in the 100 four years ago. And two of the three medals in the women's 200, too.

"It didn't matter who it was who beat you, you wanted a rematch and you wanted to get out there and prove yourself," Felix said.

Heading into the last Olympics, this was actually viewed as a genuine rivalry, with opinions divided about which country was better.

For the first time since the advent of electronic timing, the field for the blue riband event of the Games will comprise the four fastest men in history -- champion Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake, Asafa Powell and Tyson Gay.

Bolt rewrote the record books at the 2008 Beijing Games with a dazzling sprint double that turned logic on its head and forced a recalibration of what had previously been thought humanly possible.

The good news for the London organisers is that the ebullient 25-year-old is back, professing himself ready to mount a successful defence of his 100m and 200m titles from four years ago in his bid to "become a legend".

"I am the Olympic champion and I have to show the world I am the best," Bolt said on the eve of the Games.

The even better news is that he will have a titanic battle on his hands, the first chinks in his armour revealed when he was beaten in both the 100 and 200m in the Jamaican Olympic trials by training partner Blake.

Blake, crowned world champion in Daegu last year after Bolt sensationally false started in the final, is a serious gold medal contender.

"My philosophy is that the sky's the limit," Blake said. "I've always wanted to be at the Olympics. It's everyone's dream.

US vs New Zealand in women's soccer

The US women's team has been practicing penalty kicks for weeks. Coach Pia Sundhage hopes much of that work goes to waste.

It's knockout time at the Olympic tournament, when every game is win-or-go-home and threat of extra time and penalty kicks hangs over every pair of teams that can't settle their contest in the customary 90 minutes.

Sundhage wants her players to keep attacking in the Americans' quarterfinal against New Zealand on Friday. Thoughts of anything else can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

"If you start to talk too much about extra time, then I show them that, well, 'I don't really have faith in you.' Especially this first game I'd rather do the opposite," Sundhage said.

The Americans swept the three games in their group for the first time in Olympic play, so this is not the moment to start playing things close to the chest. Sundhage wants her players to take the term "knockout" more literally.

"This is when we knock them out," said Sundhage, pounding her first into her palm. "Still finding the rhythm and keep your playing style, and don't let too much up."

Besides, it's not as if harping on penalty kicks in practice can necessarily make a difference. It's more of a psychological feat than a physical one.

"It's not something you can practice for a couple of months and be good at," forward Alex Morgan said. "It's also your mentality going into it, the press

Carmelo leads US rout of Nigeria, 156-73

LONDON (AP)—The last group in England with this many records was The Beatles.

The U.S. men's Olympic basketball team beat Nigeria 156-73 Thursday night, an epic blowout that answered the Americans' detractors and sent a clear message to let them be.

After two opening routs that provoked criticism of their slow starts and outside shooting, the Americans rewrote the record books.

They led by 26 in the first quarter, had an Olympic-record 78 points in the first half and Carmelo Anthony scored 37 points, including 10 of 12 3-pointers, to break the U.S. single-game scoring record in less than three quarters.

"Our guys just couldn't miss," said coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Incredibly, they eclipsed the 100-point mark with 5 minutes still left in the third.

"When we get hot, it's a big problem," Kobe Bryant said. "So you have all these guys on one team and then all get hot on the same night, it's tough."

They broke the Olympic record for most points in a game with 4:37 still to play, and set U.S. records for 3-pointers (26), field goals (59) and field-goal percentage (71).

When Andre Iguodala hit a 3-pointer with 4:37 left, the Americans had surpassed the previous Olympic record of 138 points set by Brazil against Egypt in 1988. When the record was announced to the mesmerized crowd, all the players seated on the U.S. bench got up and walked single file past Krzyzewski, slapping hands with him and his staff.

Gentlemen, take a bow.

"It was just one of them nights where as a unit we had it going," Anthony said. "It could have been anybody out on the court playing against us."

The Americans even one-upped the 1992 Dream Team. The 83-point margin of victory was the largest in U.S. national team history, eclipsing the 79-point spread when Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Co. beat Cuba 136-57 in their first game.

The U.S. seemed intent on breaking Nigeria's spirit, and when that was accomplished with ease, the Americans made a profound statement with their marksmanship.

Nigeria was the first to get the message.

"When they shoot like this, I don't know if there is any team that can beat them," said Ike Diogu, one of the Nigerians who promised not to be intimidated by the Americans.

Bryant scored 16 points - 14 in the first quarter - for the Americans, who scored 49 points in the first, left the floor leading 78-45 at half and then doubled their total in the second half.

Russell Westbrook finished with 21 points, Kevin Love 15 and Kevin Durant 14 for the U.S., which will play Lithuania on Saturday. The Americans have won their first three games with ease, but now things are expected to get a lot tougher as they approach next week's medal round.

Diogu scored 27 to lead Nigeria (1-2), which was as good as done after Durant hit a 3-pointer 11 seconds in, snapping an 0-for-14 slump by the U.S. in the first quarter in the tourney.

Bryant was mostly a non-factor in wins over France and Tunisia, playing just 21 minutes and getting into early foul trouble. But from the outset against Nigeria, the two-time Olympian nicknamed the Black Mamba was as deadly as ever. He set the tone by scoring seven quick points as the U.S. (3-0) raced to a 13-0 lead, a haymaker that stunned the Nigerians.

Durant buried three 3-pointers, Bryant and Anthony added two from long-range and when Love, the NBA's 3-point champion, came off the bench and knocked down his first 3, the U.S. team's shooting gallery of stars had opened a 41-15 lead and made the p.a. announcer's pregame comment that "anything is possible" seem prophetic

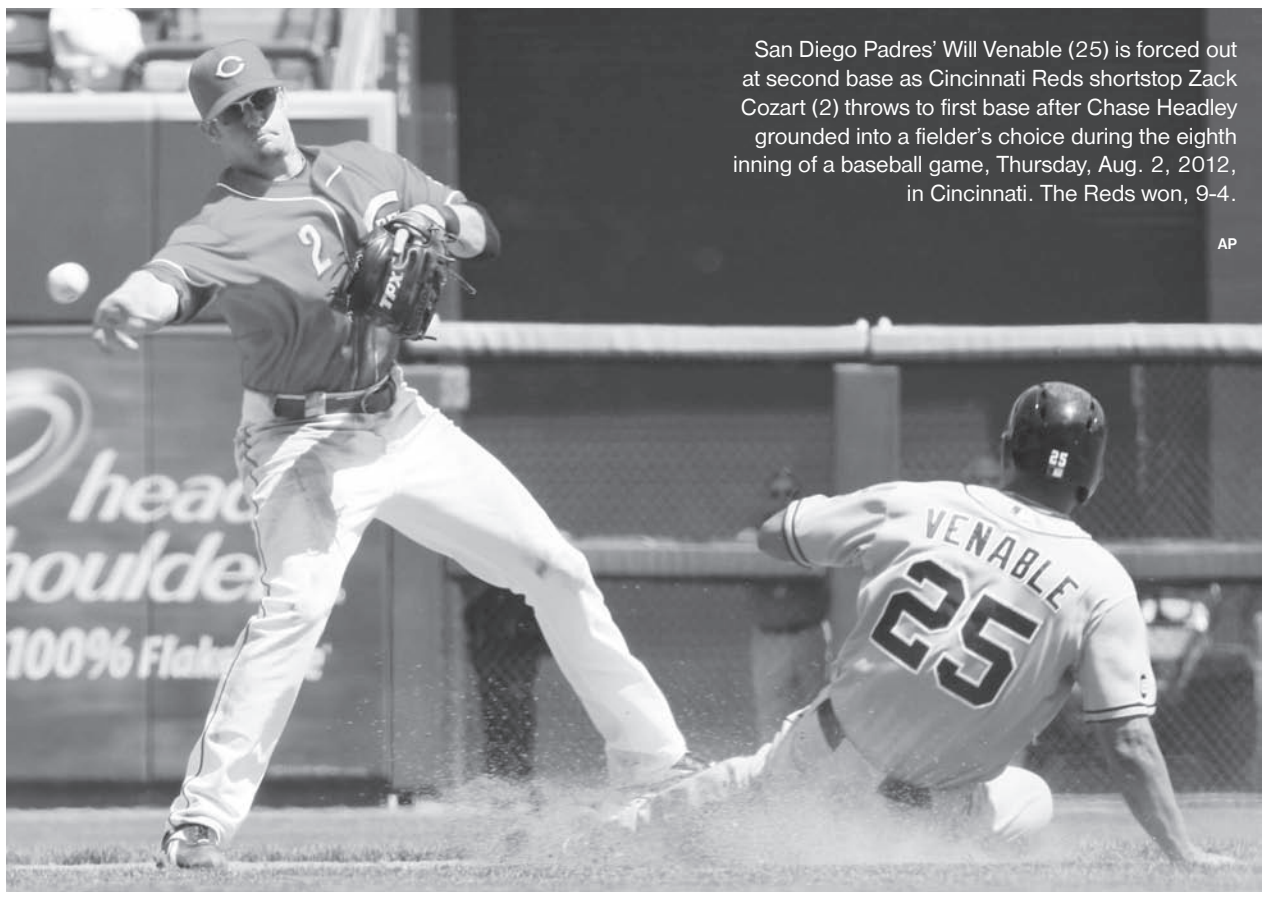
Reds beat Padres, get 13th win in 14 games

CINCINNATI (AP)—Todd Frazier hit a two-run homer to lead surging Cincinnati to its 13th win in 14 games, beating San Diego.

Frazier had three RBIs to help push the Reds to 23 games over .500 (64-41) for the first time since Sept. 4, 2010.

Cincinnati starter Johnny Cueto (14-5) gave up two homers for the first time in more than two months, but only allowed eight hits and one walk with nine strikeouts in 7 1-3 innings.

The Reds chased Padres starter Ross Ohlendorf (3-2) while sending 12 batters to the plate during a six-hit, six-run second inning. Ohlendorf also was called for a run-scoring balk before leaving after just 1 2-3 innings, the shortest outing by a San Diego starter this season.



San Diego Padres' Will Venable (25) is forced out at second base as Cincinnati Reds shortstop Zack Cozart (2) throws to first base after Chase Headley grounded into a fielder's choice during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012, in Cincinnati. The Reds won, 9-4.

AP

Nationals 3, Phillies 0

In Washington, Ross Detwiler pitched seven scoreless innings as the Nationals beat the Philadelphia Phillies 3-0 on Thursday, staying 2-1/2 games clear atop the National League East standings.

Detwiler (6-4) gave up just three singles and retired his final 14 batters.

Adam LaRoche had a homer, three hits and two RBIs for the Nationals.

Phillies starter Cole Hamels (11-6) allowed eight hits in seven innings. The All-Star has only one win in his past seven starts and has lost both outings since signing a $144 million, six-year contract last month.

Mets 9, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Ronny Cedeno drove in five runs to match his career high, while Jason Bay had only his second multi-RBI game this year as New York beat San Francisco.

In taking three of four from the Giants, the Mets won their first series in a month.

New York starter Chris Young (3-5) allowed one run in seven innings.

San Francisco starter Barry Zito (8-8) gave up seven runs in 4 1-3 innings.

Braves 6, Marlins 1

In Atlanta, Chipper Jones and Freddie Freeman each hit two-run doubles as Atlanta scored six runs in the first two innings to beat Miami.

The Braves are 6-1 on their 10-game homestand.

Atlanta's Cristhian Martinez (5-2) took over for starter Mike Minor in the fourth following a 42-minute rain delay. Martinez allowed one run in three innings.

Making his second start since coming to Miami in the trade that sent Hanley Ramirez to the Dodgers, Nathan Eovaldi (2-7) gave up six runs in two innings. It was the shortest of his 18 career starts.

Rockies 8, Cardinals 2

In Denver, Tyler Colvin hit a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning and rookie Josh Rutledge homered in his fourth straight game as Colorado beat St. Louis.

The Rockies have lost their previous seven home games.

With the bases loaded in the sixth, Colorado's Rex Brothers (6-2) got Lance Berkman to ground into an inning-ending double play. Fernando Salas (1-4) took the loss.

Rangers 15, Angels 9

In Arlington, Texas slugger Josh Hamilton drove in four runs to power the Rangers to a 15-9 win over the Los Angeles Angels in an American League run-fest on Thursday.

The Rangers broke an 8-8 tie by scoring four runs in the seventh, including Hamilton's two-run double, and added three in the eighth.

Ryan Dempster — acquired from the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday — made his first Rangers start and had a fortunate no-decision after allowing eight runs in just 4 2-3 innings.

Roy Oswalt (4-2) threw two scoreless innings in relief for the win.

Angels reliever David Carpenter (0-1) took the loss.

Athletics 4, Blue Jays 1

In Oakland, Josh Reddick hit a two-run homer as Oakland downed Toronto, moving above L.A. and into second place in the AL West, 4-1/2 games behind Texas.

Oakland starter Bartolo Colon (8-8) pitched eight shutout innings, extending his scoreless streak to 16 1-3 innings.

Blue Jays starter Henderson Alvarez (7-8) ceded a season-high five walks, allowed runners on base in all but one of his five-plus innings, and struck out only one.

Toronto has lost five straight, matching their season worst.

Twins 5, Red Sox 0

In Boston, Samuel Deduno pitched six scoreless innings in his third straight strong performance, guiding Minnesota past Boston.

Deduno (3-0), making his sixth major league start, has given up just two earned runs in 19 1-3 innings.

Brian Dozier had three hits for Minnesota, including a two-run homer in the ninth.

Red Sox starter Jon Lester (5-9) had allowed 25 earned runs over his previous four starts but gave up only three in eight innings on Thursday but got no run support.

Royals 7, Indians 6, 11 innings

In Kansas City, Alcides Escobar's RBI single with two outs in the 11th inning gave Kansas City the win over Cleveland.

Escobar's two-strike hit scored Eric Hosmer, who led off the inning with a single.

The Indians had rallied from a six-run first-inning deficit, but lost their sixth straight, their longest losing skid for two years.

Aaron Crow (2-1), the sixth Royals pitcher, worked a spotless 11th inning to pick up the victory.

Reliever Esmil Rogers (1-1), the fifth of six Indians pitchers, took the loss.

Furyk races out to the lead at Firestone

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Jim Furyk made a detour to Florida to sit on his back porch and hang out with his kids as he tried to figure out why decent golf was producing ordinary scores. The short break appeared to do him a world of good Thursday in the Bridgestone Invitational.

With seven birdies and a 30-foot eagle putt, Furyk had a 7-under 63 for his best score ever at Firestone and a two-shot lead over Lee Slattery of England.

The conditions could not have been more ideal with sunshine, heat and very little wind, along with carpet for fairways and smooth greens. It showed in some of the tee shots on the South Course—58 drives of at least 350 yards, and a 427-yarder by Branden Grace of South Africa—and mostly in the scoring.

Luke Donald, the world's No. 1 player, and Masters champion Bubba Watson were among those at 66. Thirty players in the 78-man field at this World Golf Championship managed to break par.

Tiger Woods was not among them. He was 3 under after back-to-back birdies to start the back nine, but had to lay up with his third shot on the par-5 16th after driving into the trees and ended his round with a three-putt bogey from 25 feet for a 70. It was his second-worst start at Firestone, a course where he has won seven times. The other was a 74 in 2010, his last week without a swing coach.

"I think I averaged about four putts per hole, so it was a great day on the greens," said Woods, who lost his touch on the greens but at least kept his sarcasm.

Since missing out on a chance to win the U.S. Open, Furyk has tied for 34th in two tournaments and missed two cuts, including last week in Canada. For a guy who is 15th in the Ryder Cup standings—even a win this week would not make him eligible for the U.S. team—this was no time to be stuck in neutral.

So when he had another weekend off after rounds of 70-70 at the Canadian Open, he flew home for three days.

"I think more than anything I needed a little time to clear my head," Furyk said. "It wasn't anything that was going wrong, (but) why I wasn't playing better. I just felt like I needed to come in here and quit concentrating on trying to be so mechanically sound and just go play some golf and try to score and get the ball in the hole a little bit. It worked today. I did a lot better job of scoring.

"It's been a while since I made seven birdies and an eagle in a round," he said. "So it was a lot of fun."

The average score was 70.33, which is on the low side for Firestone.

Defending champion Adam Scott, in his first tournament since making four straight bogeys to lose the British Open, had a four-putt from just inside 10 feet early in his round and shot 71. So did Phil Mickelson, while British Open champion Ernie Els had a 73.

This is a course where players can smash it off the tee, and most of them did. Watson said he hit driver on all but three of the long holes. When he was asked how many fairways he missed, Watson replied, "I don't know. I shot 4 under. That's all I know."

That ultimately was all that mattered.

Grace, who along with Woods is the only player with three wins this year, crushed a tee shot into the speed slot on the 656-yard 16th hole that left him only 222 yards to the hole. One problem.

"It was a reasonable opportunity," Grace said. "But I was right between clubs. I could either thump a 3-iron or hit my rescue, and going just over the back of that green and chipping back is not the best."

Manning doesn't miss a beat with Decker down

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Even with Eric Decker down, Peyton Manning didn't miss a beat.

Decker has been the star of the Broncos' training camp so far, but when he went out with a strained groin, Demaryius Thomas stepped up to solidify his standing in Manning's eyes and with Denver's refurbished offense.

Thomas made several big catches Thursday, even turning a rare wobbly pass from Manning into a 35-yard TD when he outleapt Drayton Florence and Raheem Moore at the goal line. Another time, he gave Tracy Porter a taste of the stiff-arm he used on Ike Taylor to beat Pittsburgh in the playoffs.

Whether on posts, curls or slants, Thomas was there to haul in Manning's fastballs during the no-huddle work to the delight of yet another record crowd - 5,034 - at Dove Valley.

"Well, I think Demaryius has had a really good camp even when Eric's been practicing," Manning said. "Demaryius is a guy that we are going to feature. His size and strength and speed just allows you to do certain things with him that other players just can't do. And so, Eric's had a really good camp. He's just got a little tweak, hopefully he'll be back this afternoon or tomorrow.

"But I thought Demaryius these last two days has really made some big plays, he's done some good things with the ball after the catch, which is what we're going to need," Manning added.

After all, Manning's game is built on finding the hole in the defense and getting the ball there as quickly as possible so his receiver can use his legs to turn short passes into long plays.

"You can't just throw down the field every time," Manning said. "You've got to be able to take a 5-yard hitch or a little 10-yard hook route and turn it into a 20-yard or a 30-yard gain and he's kind of shown those type of plays these past two days."

Good thing, too, because Thomas had some catching up to do.

The oft-injured Thomas needed an operation to remove pins from his left thumb this offseason and was sidelined when Manning signed with the Broncos (No. 10 in the AP Pro32) in March.

So, he was rehabbing while Manning was throwing tons of passes to Decker at local high school football fields while working his way back from a nerve problem in his neck that caused him to miss all of last season and led to his release by the Indianapolis Colts.

Thomas returned to the field in May and quickly made a big impression on Manning, who never had such a huge target in Indy.

"He's the biggest receiver I've played with since I've been in pro ball, certainly," Manning said. "He has that rare combination of size and speed. So, I look forward just to getting more and more comfortable with him and just kind of growing through this process.

"And every day is important with not just him but all of the receivers as we work together to get on the same page in many different phases."

Also making plays and an early impression on Manning is free agent receiver Andre "Bubba" Caldwell, who signed with the Broncos this offseason after four years in Cincinnati.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

OLYMPIC MEDAL TALLY

Country	G	S	B	TOTAL
United States	18	9	10	37
China	18	11	5	34
Japan	2	6	11	19
Germany	4	8	5	17
Russia	3	6	8	17
Great Britain	5	6	4	15
South Korea	7	2	5	14
Italy	4	5	2	11
Australia	1	7	3	11
Canada	0	2	5	7
Netherlands	2	1	3	6
Ukraine	2	0	4	6
Romania	1	3	2	6
North Korea	4	0	1	5
Hungary	2	1	2	5
Brazil	1	1	2	4
Mexico	0	3	1	4
Kazakhstan	3	0	0	3
South Africa	3	0	0	3
New Zealand	1	0	2	3
Colombia	0	2	1	3
Cuba	0	2	1	3
Slovakia	0	0	3	3
Slovenia	1	0	1	2
Sweden	0	2	0	2
Belarus	0	1	1	2
Denmark	0	1	1	2
Indonesia	0	1	1	2
Mongolia	0	1	1	2
Norway	0	1	1	2
Spain	0	1	1	2
Georgia	1	0	0	1
Lithuania	1	0	0	1
Venezuela	1	0	0	1
Taiwan	0	1	0	1
Czech Republic	0	1	0	1
Egypt	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	1
Thailand	0	1	0	1
Azerbaijan	0	0	1	1
Belgium	0	0	1	1
Greece	0	0	1	1
India	0	0	1	1
Qatar	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Serbia	0	0	1	1
Singapore	0	0	1	1
Uzbekistan	0	0	1	1

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	61	43	.587	—
Baltimore	55	50	.524	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	55	50	.524	6 1/2
Boston	53	53	.500	9
Toronto	51	54	.486	10 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	57	47	.548	—
Detroit	55	50	.524	2 1/2
Cleveland	50	55	.476	7 1/2
Minnesota	45	60	.429	12 1/2
Kansas City	44	60	.423	13

West Division

Texas	61	43	.587	—
Oakland	57	48	.543	4 1/2
Los Angeles	57	49	.538	5
Seattle	50	57	.467	12 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	62	42	.596	—
Atlanta	60	45	.571	2 1/2
New York	52	54	.491	11
Miami	48	57	.457	14 1/2
Philadelphia	47	58	.448	15 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	64	41	.610	—
Pittsburgh	60	44	.577	3 1/2
St. Louis	56	49	.533	8
Milwaukee	48	56	.462	15 1/2
Chicago	43	60	.417	20
Houston	35	71	.330	29 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	56	49	.533	—
Los Angeles	56	50	.528	1/2
Arizona	54	51	.514	2
San Diego	44	63	.411	13
Colorado	38	65	.369	17

BRIDGESTONE SCORES

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Scores Thursday from the Bridgestone Invitational, a U.S. PGA Tour event played at the 7,400-yard, par-70 Firestone Country Club (South Course).

FIRST ROUND

Jim Furyk	32-31—63
Lee Slattery	31-34—65
Bubba Watson	33-33—66
Ben Crane	34-32—66
Luke Donald	32-34—66
Rafael Cabrera Bello	34-32—66
Simon Dyson	33-33—66
John Senden	31-35—66
Retief Goosen	34-33—67
Carl Pettersson	35-32—67
Bill Haas	36-31—67
K.T. Kim	32-35—67
Keegan Bradley	34-33—67
Jason Dufner	33-34—67
Sergio Garcia	35-32—67
Louis Oosthuizen	32-35—67
Geoff Ogilvy	31-36—67
Jamie Donaldson	35-33—68
Zach Johnson	34-34—68
Lee Westwood	35-33—68
Martin Laird	34-34—68
Martin Kaymer	32-36—68
Steve Stricker	34-34—68
David Toms	35-33—68
Charl Schwartzel	32-37—69
Scott Piercy	36-33—69
Nick Watney	34-35—69
Y.E. Yang	35-34—69
Kyle Stanley	36-33—69
Dustin Johnson	34-35—69
Bernd Wiesberger	36-34—70
Marc Leishman	36-34—70
Matt Kuchar	32-38—70
Justin Rose	37-33—70
Bo Van Pelt	35-35—70
Rickie Fowler	33-37—70
Rory McIlroy	37-33—70
Alvaro Quiros	35-35—70
Tiger Woods	34-36—70
Graeme McDowell	34-36—70
Fredrik Jacobson	35-36—71
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano	36-35—71
Greg Chalmers	36-35—71
Johnson Wagner	35-36—71
Adam Scott	36-35—71
Phil Mickelson	37-34—71
Thomas Bjorn	33-38—71
Ryo Ishikawa	36-35—71
K.J. Choi	35-36—71
Brandt Snedeker	36-35—71
Sang-Moon Bae	35-37—72
Paul Lawrie	36-36—72
Kevin Na	35-37—72
Ted Potter, Jr.	36-36—72
Danny Willett	35-37—72
Toru Taniguchi	37-35—72
Joost Luiten	38-34—72
Mark Wilson	35-37—72
Branden Grace	36-36—72
Toshinori Muto	36-37—73
Yoshinori Fujimoto	37-36—73
Peter Hanson	36-37—73
Robert Allenby	36-37—73
Ernie Els	37-36—73
Jeev Milkha Singh	37-36—73
Thongchai Jaidee	37-36—73
Nicolas Colsaerts	37-36—73
Aaron Baddeley	37-36—73
Hunter Mahan	34-39—73
Jonathan Byrd	35-38—73
Francesco Molinari	35-39—74
Ian Poulter	38-36—74
Jason Day	36-39—75
Marcel Siem	38-38—76
Robert Rock	38-38—76
Oliver Bekker	36-41—77
Tom Lewis	38-40—78
Michael Hoey	39-39—78

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two-way deadlocks in SEDA league opener

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Bud Light Summer/Fall season opened this week and featured a pair of two-way ties in the Tuesday B League and C Division.

C Division's Zyndikato of Bammy's Restaurant & Bar and Sand's Bar's Lupeyt posted similar 10-5 home wins over Oceanside Beach Bar & Grill's Shooters M-Side and SOS Bar & Grill's Joker Royal, respectively, last Wednesday.

Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Island Apparel Oh! MG resides just one game back after its 9-6 victory over Sand's Juvy Aschoascho at home, while the Hafa Mas and Oceanside's Shottas worked out 8-7 triumphs over VFW Post 3457's Warriors and Jonny's Bar & Grill's Sparks, respectively.

In Tuesday B League action, SOS's Dartaholiks and VFW's Delubyo assumed early control with their respective lopsided 13-2 road wins over Oceanside's Reckless Precision and Poseidon Bar & Grill's K-1 Scorpions.

Naked Fish's Na'Gupu II rests in third place after its 10-5 road victory over Oceanside's Good Guys, while Oceanside's Triple Threat overcame SOS Seabridge 80 Proofers, 8-7, also on the road.

Bammy's Momes'l Meis hold a one game lead in the Ladies Division after notching a 12-3 road victory over SOS Wonder Women. In other results, Es'y Kitchen's B-52 Shooters and Jonny's defending champion Try Luck secured similar 11-4 home wins over Oceanside's Shooter G-Side and Joe's Steakhouse's Just Like That.

Meanwhile, Naked Fish's Man-Amigas are also in the win column after their 10-5 victory over Joe's Daffodils on the road, 10-5.

In the A Division, Oceanside's Mafia went into SOS on Monday and romped the Mixblood Shooters, 12-5, for a strong debut showing.

Bammy's Sabalu Boys are hot in pursuit, following a 11-6 road win over Sand's Juvy Predators, while the Mafia's sister-team Bud Brothers held on for a close 9-8 victory over the SOS 100 Proofers at home. SOS's Outlawz (0-0) make up the rest of the field.

Masters' Oceanside Destroyers took the reigns after Wednesday's opening pairings with a 14-3 road rout over Sand's Juvy Especialist, but have company in SOS Fantastic Baby, which schooled sister squad Jokers in a home draw, 13-4.

Behind the co-leaders were VFW's Maharot Crew and Es'y's Diamond Force, which eked out identical 9-8 road victories over Joe's Dart Seekers and SOS's Mix-Blood Rookies.

ROTA

From Page 28

21 km run (8-hour time limit). For team competitors, there will also be triathlon of the A-type distance, again with no time limit.

"Rota Blue is simply beautiful, a world-class event through tropical waters and on quiet roadways through villages and jungles," said MVA community projects Manager Martin Duenas. "Last year we had 130 competitors, and we'd like to beat that number this November."

Pre- registration will be held on Nov. 16, from 11am to 12:30 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Restaurant & Bar. The swim course inspection will be held the same day from 1pm to 2pm at the East Harbor. Final registration will take place that evening from 4:30pm to 8pm at Rota Resort & Country Club's Sunset BBQ Tiki Tiki. The prerace briefing for all participants will be held that evening from 6pm to 7:30 p.m.

Starting time for both distances is 6:30am at Rota's East Harbor. Wetsuits are permitted, while bike helmets are required. Registration fees are $80 for A-type course solo competitors and $70 for each member in the team category. The fee for the B-type course is $100. The entry fee includes an event t-shirt, high-quality swim cap, and an invitation to the awards banquet at East Harbor.

The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is one of four major triathlon events held in the Northern Mariana Islands, joining the XTERRA Saipan Championship, Tagaman Triathlon, and the Tinian Turquoise Blue on the list.

For more information about the annual triathlon, please contact Frank Tudela at 1-670-664.3200/01 or ftudela@mymarianas.com, or Sandra Atalig at the MVA Rota Office at 1.670-532-0327. ***(MVA)***

CNMI

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over a month and this morning he called me to deliver the bad news. It's too bad that he won't be able to join us in Fiji, but I think we still have a formidable team," said Race, who left for Fiji early this morning with four CNMI players.

With Ren out, the CNMI Team is down to 10 players. Race left Saipan with Negahr Rastguiy, Isabel Heras, Carol Lee, and Luther Lizama. Completing the CNMI Team are Thea Minor, Christian Miller, Rafael Jones, Mikayla Lopez, Chris Cajigan, and Tammy Ackerman. Ackerman has been in Fiji for about a year after getting a scholarship and she and Jones are training at the Oceania Tennis Federation regional facility. Miller, Minor, Lopez, and Cajigan have different flight schedules with Race and company and will reunite with the rest of the team in Fiji.

Ackerman, Lopez, and Rastguiy will play in the girls U15 division and they are favored to make it to the Final Four after their impressive showings in last year's POJC. Ackerman ruled the girls U12 singles, beating Rastguiy in the all-CNMI finals, while Lopez placed fourth in the U15.

"I was in the Final 4 in my first time in Fiji and then was second last year. Hopefully, this year, I get to finish first. I, Mikayla, and Tammy will play our best game next week," Rastguiy said.

In the CNMI's 10-player roster, three are first-timers—Lee, Heras, and Lizama, who will all compete in the U12 division.

"I am a bit nervous going to Fiji because it will be my first time to play there. However, we trained hard for this tournament and coach Jeff help us to get ready for the tough matches there. My goal in Fiji is to at least finish in the Top 4," Heras said.

Last year, the CNMI had six players making it to the Top 4 in the POJC, which will also feature players from the North squad's Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia, the West's Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Norfolk Island, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, and East's Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga.

MAYWEATHER

From Page 28

meanor domestic battery case.

The undefeated boxer walked out of the Clark County Detention Center beneath the glow of street lamps and glare of TV cameras to resume a boxing career that his lawyers and personal physician warned in court documents might be at risk. They said jail food and water didn't meet Mayweather's dietary needs, and lack of exercise space in a cramped cell of fewer than 98 square feet threatened his health and fitness.

Mayweather looked fit as he donned a leather Miami Heat cap, pulled a gray hooded sweatshirt over his head and shared hugs with about 20 family members and friends, including his 12-year-old daughter, Iyanna Mayweather, and his manager, Leonard Ellerbe.

He said nothing to the media as he got behind the wheel of a blue Bentley sedan with several friends inside, including rapper 50 Cent, and drove away.

A lot has happened in Mayweather's world since he was jailed June 1.

With no television in his solo cell, he couldn't see arch rival Manny Pacquiao lose his WBO welterweight title June 9 to Timothy Bradley.

Mayweather, who goes by the nickname "Money," wasn't around to celebrate last month when Forbes magazine named him the world's highest-paid athlete for 2011.

He wasn't able to attend the ESPN network ESPY awards to accept the best fighter award.

And he missed fiancee Shantel Jackson's private birthday bash last week at a Las Vegas steakhouse with friends, including 50 Cent. Las Vegas Review-Journal celebrity columnist Norm Clark noted that Mayweather sent diamonds.

But Mayweather is now a free man, even if his next opponent is not immediately clear.

Ellerbe declined comment outside the jail late Thursday, where he waited with friends, including Mayweather adviser Sam Watson and several others.

Promoters for Mayweather's main rival, Philippine boxer Manny Pacquiao, plan a fight Nov. 10 at the MGM Grand Garden arena in Las Vegas, Nevada Athletic Commission executive Keith Kizer said. Pacquiao's opponent hasn't been named but Mayweather wasn't believed to be on the list.

Pacquiao, who earned $62 million in fights and endorsements last year, ranked second on the Forbes richest athletes list behind Mayweather and his $85 million in fight earnings.

To fight in Las Vegas, Mayweather will need a new license from the Nevada Athletic Commission, Kizer said Thursday. His last license, for the May 5 bout against Miguel Cotto, was for one fight only.

If Mayweather applies, commission Chairman Raymond "Skip" Avansino Jr. could decide to grant approval administratively or summon Mayweather before the panel for a public hearing, Kizer said.

MILLER

From Page 28

Puluspene.

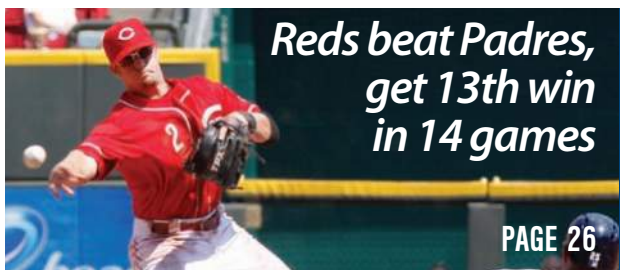
Australia's Brooke Rischbieth is the highest rank player in the field with her No. 133 Junior ITF ranking, followed by compatriots Georgina Ruhrig (No. 143), Danielle Wagland (No. 154), Naiktha Bains (No. 175), and Ellen Perez (No. 203). Other players earning main draw slots in the Junior ITF event were from New Zealand, PNG, Fiji, and New Caledonia, while players from Hong Kong, Russia, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, Chinese-Taipei, and China will still fight for wild card berths.

Like Minor, Miller also notched a main draw ticket to the Oceania Closed for the second straight year.

Miller, who lost to Australia's Andrew Harris, 0-6, 1-6, in his Junior ITF debut, is one of the six unranked players to make the main draw. He joins Tahiti's Nicolas Lesturgie and Heve Kelley, Vanuatu's Gregory Jacobe, Norfolk Island's James Elliot, and Australia's Jack Lyttle. New Zealand's Cameron Norrie is the top-seeded player in the field with his No. 91 ranking. Australia dominated the main draw, which has only 28 players and will have to wait for four wild card entries.

CNMI coach Jeff Race said he hopes Rafael Jones will get one of those wild card seats. Jones played in the same tournament last year, but was entered in the doubles competition, teaming up with Miller. The Commonwealth pair went on to bow to Australia's Jacob Grills and James Sheppard in the first round, 0-6, 3-6.

TSL SPORTS COMPLEX
Activity Schedule for Saturday, August 4, 2012
2012 Summer Futsal League
5:30 PM U14 Boys' Division Astig vs. IT&E
6:30 PM U18 Boys, Division Astig vs. Mean Machine
7:30 PM Women's Division Xerox vs. IT&E Awesome
SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL



Saipan Tribune
Sports

Miller, Minor to play in Jr. ITF tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis players Thea Minor and Christian Miller gained entry to the main draw of the 2012 Oceania Closed Junior Championships that will be played in Fiji this month.

The 16-year-old Minor is among the 28 players listed in the main draw of the girls U18 competition of the Junior ITF-sanctioned event. The Aug. 13 to 17 tournament is a B2 event under the Junior ITF Circuit. A grade B2 event awards 120 Junior ITF points to the champion, 80 to the runner-up, 60 to semifinalists, 40 to quarterfinalists, 25 to the losers in the Last 16, and 10 to the losers in the Last 32 of a 64-player draw.

Minor was in the same tournament last year, but failed to claim her first Junior ITF ranking points after bowing to Australia's Celine Lenertz in the opening round, 1-6, 0-6. The CNMI netter's first round opponent this year has yet to be announced as the 32-player draw has yet to be completed with 27 others still left to battle for the four remaining wild card entries.

The Saipan Southern High School student, who left the island early this month and will arrive in Fiji from Australia tomorrow, is one of the four unranked players who made it to the main draw of the girls singles. The three other unranked netters in the main draw were New Zealand's Chanista Ampornachariya, Australia's Claudia Furdi, and Papua New Guinea's Lorish

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Minor

Miller

Rota Blue Triathlon Nov. 17

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and Rota municipality will host the 19th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon on Nov. 17.

Regional and international triathletes are expected to return for the annual Ironman event that features the pristine, tropical environment and warm island hospitality of the island of Rota. Last year's event was topped by Taro Shirato of Japan, a repeat competitor in the triathlon.

The event, sponsored by Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan and the Rota Mayor's Office, features two distances: an A-type half-marathon distance, which includes a 1.5 km swim, followed by a 40 km rigorous biking course and a 10 km run (no time limit) and the B-type Olympic distance, which includes a 2.0 km swim, followed by a 90 km biking course and topped off with a

See ROTA on Page 27

CNMI Team to POJC down to 10 players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI coach Jeff Race is still confident about their chances in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships despite losing top U12 bet Michael Ren.

"It's disappointing to lose Michael a day before we leave for Fiji. He is one of the favorites in the U12 division. However, I am still positive we have a strong chance of duplicating our performance in last year's POJC. We may get the championships in the U15," said Race during an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday at their last training session at the Pacific Islands Club hard court in San Antonio.

Ren will miss the POJC, which will be held at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Fiji from Aug. 6 to 10, after sustaining an ankle injury while training in China.

"He has been training in China for

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, coach Jeff Race, Luther Lizama, and Negahr Rastguiy pose for a group photo yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court before leaving for Fiji early Saturday morning to compete in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Mayweather released from Las Vegas jail after 2 months

By KEN RITTER
AP BOXING WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)— Boxer Floyd Mayweather was released from a Las Vegas jail early Friday after serving two months of a three-month sentence in a misde-

See MAYWEATHER on Page 27

AP

Floyd Mayweather Jr., exits the Clark County Detention Center after serving two months of a three-month sentence in a misdemeanor domestic battery case, Friday, Aug. 3, 2012, in Las Vegas.